An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation جوردان تايمز يوميًا ﴿ سُياسية تصير بالأنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية ،الراي،

U.N. plans points along Iraqi border

WWAIT (AP) — Armed U.N. peacekeepers will set up checkpoints along the Kuwait-Iraq border to prevent weapons or soldiers from proteining the demilitarised area, the commander of the U.N. force inid the Kuwait News Agency Tuesday. Major General Krishna Thapa 10ld the state-run agency that Bangladeshi soldiers would man these points and search all vehicles entering the area from both Kuwait and lraq. The zone was established along the 210-kilnmetre border after the Gulf war that ended a seven-month Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in February 1991. It extends 10 kilometres into southern Iraq and five kilometres into Kuwait. Until recently, the zone was monitured only by about 300 unarmed soldiers of the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Missinn. The 791 Bangladeshi troops, armed with light weapons, started arriving in the past few weeks to beet up the U.N. force. Gen Thapa said Kuwait has agreed to allow the peacekeepers to set up four crossings over a protective trench it has been building along the border with Iraq. KUNA said the five-metre-wide trench was 500 metres

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King hopes PLO will rise up to its responsibilities

Clearly defined political course and coordination based on sincerity are needed Choice should reflect the conscience and aspirations of Palestinian people

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday that the present circumstances make it imperative that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) choose a clear course of political action reflecting the aspirations of the

"I hope that the Palestinian leadership would rise up to the level of responsibility so that it will be able to fulfill its duty used and its major role on the road towards fulfilling the Palestinot man people's aspirations," the Lon King said in a speech to directors and senior officers from the Armed Forces, the Public Secrity, General Intelligence and Civil Defence depart-

> In his address at the Royal Court, King Hussein said that Jordan was seeking coordination with all Arab parties including the Palestinians with hopes to protect Arab interests and the interests of the Palesti-

nians under Israeli occupation. The King also reiterated that future relations between Jordan and a would-be Palestinian dian entity would be determined after the Palestinians gained

their right 10 exercise a free

He said the Kingdom did not harbour poilitical or territorial ambitions in the West Bank. The Monarch also stressed that Jordan would not sign a peace treaty with Israel before the other Arabs involved in the Middle East peace process reached agreements with

"We are for a comprehen-sive and just settlement that will include all Arab fronts," King Hussein said.

In a similar speech to milit-ary officials on Saturday, King Hussein warned that if the PLO did not revive coordination with Jordan by Tuesday, it will face the prospect of the two sides going separate ways.
Palestinian officials said

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat . responded to the King's call and would dispatch a team led by the head of the PLO's political department, Farouk Kaddoumi, to Jordan on Wednes-

In his Tuesday speech, King Hussein said that lack of coordination with the PLO "will oot ooly adversely affect



Jordanian interests, but will also undermine those of the

He said that the PLO was planning to extend the Tuesday deadline he set hy "one or two days" and "I hope they will comply by that date."

King Hussein stressed the need to protect national unity and voiced pride in the Armed Forces and the security and iotelligence personnel for shouldering their serious re-

Following are major excerpts from the speech;

We will defend national unity with our lives and we will be keen on offering a unique example to others.

I have said more than once that any party trying to tamper with national unity will be my enemy for ever.

Despite the difficult circumstances and amidst questions about the present and the future, parliamentary elections were held in Jordan because we had decided and determined to proceed on the way which we believe is the ideal one and the pattern of life we chose for ourselves. We shoulder the responsibilities together side by side.

We elected the elite to rep-

resent us in Parliament, Our democratic march is a true reflection of our belief in the importance of public participation in the decision-making process and shaping the future. We care for the human being, whom we entrust with onr hopes for the future. We

are determined to protect his

In the recent past I have talked about the peace process to which we are committed provided it is to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement and would provide future generations a decent and free life

I have talked about this decisive stage, concentrating on coordination among Arab countries, starting with Jordanian-Palestinian coordination.

in a stable and secure future.

I have talked of my concern over the Palestinians in the occupied territories with whom we share their difficult life in their land.

This situation requires from the Palestinian leadership to choose and to define a clear course and we pray to God that their choice would reflect the feelings and the conscience of the Palestinian people,
I hope that the Palestinian

leadership would rise to the level of responsibility to enable it to carry out its duty and its major role to serve the Palestinians towards fulfilling their aspirations and their full rights in the Palestinian homeland. We hope this leadership would truly represent the Palestinian people and be in constant touch with the people in the occupied lands so that this people can be reassured that they have reached the levels where it can be truly said that it is representative of all

the Palestinian people. As to the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, we are pursuing a path set by our ancestors and we shared with them livelihood as one united people in Palestine and Jordan and we are pursuing this

At this stage, we must reach a situation with clearly defined features, one at which we would know our and their rights and responsibilities.

What is offered now is either they be strengthened by joining hands with us, and we are ready to offer them every snpport as we always did from the start, or the other alternative; there is no need for me to put it

Concerning us in Jordan, once the issue is settled, and I hope it would be settled positively only then, the option would be offered to who would wish to stay with us or choose another path. However we would respect their wish. But until then we have to preserve our unity, safeguard democracy and human rights here as the beginning of a serious

This country would be an example for our hrothers in the Arab World and for the Muslim Nation.

I have spoken about Jerusalem, which would remain in our minds and conscience for ever. I expressed my views about the seriousness of this stage and our concern for holy places there. We are afraid of losing contact with these places as a result of any eventuality or situation. We do not want to see a vacuum, as it happened after 1974.

As to Jerusalem and holy places, we have expressed our views and will continue to carry out our duty towards this Holy City.

I have spoken about confederation, I have requested the Palestinian leadership to drop this term. I would drop it too as of this moment not because I believe that the people here

and in the West Bank are not our people, but because I helieve that the people on both sides should have the final say in this matter.

Our relacionship in the fu-ture should not be imposed by any side or group in the Palestinian arena or here.

The decision can be taken in the future after the people regain their land in an atmosphere of democracy and free-

We would be able then to meet on solid ground based on mutual trust in order to reflect the true image — that Jordan had always been supporting the Palestinians and that it had no amhitions hut was fulfilliog its duties as was done by the late Sharif Hussein and Abdullah Ben Al Hussein. Only then any formula would be the acceptable formula.

Our talk about this was aimed at helping the Palesti-nian leadership shoulder its responsibilities and enable the people to regain their rights. We will honour our commitment to the resolution of the

(Continued on page 5)

Asem Ghoshch

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Cabinet approves appointments

AMMAN (J.T.) - The Council of Ministers Tuesday approved several appointnents involving senior posts. In a regular session presided over by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the Calinet appointed Asem Ghisheh as director general of the Department of Palestinian Affairs.

Mrs. Ghosheh, who success Adel Irsheid, to the

post, was transferred from his post as advisor at the Royal

Mr. tisbeid was appointed munister of the state when Prime Minister Majali reshuffled his government. Mr. Ghosheh served as

secretary-general of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources prior to being moved to the Royal

Another appointment made Tuesday by the Cabinet was that of Dr. Ghassan Al Millich as secretary-general of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, succeeding Nasn-Ataliah, who resigned as of Jan. I after holding the post for several years.

Dr. Mufleh worked at the University of Jordan and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) as well as in the private

The Cabioet appointed Farah Al Hashem as director general of the National Aid Fund (NAF).

Mr. Hashem earlier served as inspector-general and advisor at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

The Council of Ministers appointed Laurice Hlass as advisor at the Prime Ministry at a senior level. Previously she served as consultant at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

CBJ lifts ceiling on credits for exporters

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Tuesday announced the lifting of a ceiling on tresh credits that commercial banks could extend to exporters.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency. Petra, CBJ Governor Mohammad Saced Al Nabulsi said the management of the commercial banks could determine the volume of fresh credits they could grant to

exporters. The move, Dr. Nabulsi explained, means that the credits that banks may extend to exporters are not bound by the general ceiling on fresh credits during the year as agreed hy the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the economic restructuring prog-ramme under way in Jordan.

He said the move came as part of the government's efforts to encourage exports. and was adopted in light of "the positive changes witnessed in the monetary sector to

conform to the CBJ's tendency to have indirect controls over credits facilities through the use of new monetary means such as certificates of deposits in Jordanian di-

Another recent move by the government to encourage exporters was the exemption of up to 70 per cent of exporters' profits from income tax. Banking officials said they had received a CBJ circular informing of the relaxed credit regulations, which took

effect as of Jan. 1, 1994. Dr. Nahulsi said the new regulations also replace earlier standing rules which restricted hanks from extending .

In the context of credits for exporters known as packing credit in banking terms, the total amount extended should not exceed 90 per cent of the bank's reserves. The general ceiling on

fresh commercial credits set by the IMF for the year was JD 400 million — JD 335 million for the private sector and the rest for the public But the ceiling was broken as a result of high demand—

the total of fresh commercial credit extended bit JD 360 million in the first seven months of the year - prompting the CBJ to introduce a series of restrictive measures.

The measures included the limits related to capital and reserves of commercial banks and the hanks' involvement



Mohammad Saced Nabulsi in trading in the Amman

Financial Market. Subsequently, the CBJ sought a higher ceiling and got IMF approval for another JD 60 million that could be extended during the last quarter of 1993 at a rate of JD 20 million per month. Banks which had already broken the ceiling were ex-eluded from the addition.

(Continued on page 5)

Rabin: Self-rule hurdles could be overcome in next few days

Kaddoumi says proposals should be enhanced

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin predicted Tuesday that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would resolve their latest political crisis in the "next few days" and resume talks on implementing Palestinian ацтопошу.

Foreign Minister Shimoo Peres and Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath were in fax contact all day working out a compromise for restarting the talks, which stalled over control of border crossings, Israel Radio said.

"In everything linked to the proposal to resume talks in Tabaa ... this issue is being examined and will definitely be concluded in the next few days," Mr. Rabin told repor-

"We have an interest in continuing the talks, not at any price or under any condition," said Mr. Rabin, adding be thought the obstacles would be

Israel Radio said several political sources predicted that closing gaps and could allow low-level negotiations in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Tabaa to resume next week. An Israeli negotiator said

the talks could resume next week following a compromise offer made by the Palestinians. "I have every reason to think that the negotiations will resume next week" following

proposals which had just been made by the PLO, said the official who requested anony-The talks would take place

in Taba, he said. In Cairo PLO official

Farouk Kaddoumi said Israel must make seven changes demanded by PLO leader Yasser Arafat to its propozals for launching Palestinian self-rule. Faronk Kaddoumi, who

serves as the organisation's foreign minister, was speaking to reporters after meeting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

"As Palestinians we felt that we had to insist on certain points," said Mr. Kaddoumi ring to seveo amendments to a document drawn up by Israel at talks with the PLO here last week, he replied "exactly."

Israel has refused to resume negotiations on how to implement the Sept. 13 autonomy deal unless the Palestinians accept as the starting point a draft document which Mr. Peres said they had agreed to last Wednesday.

The draft covers joint control of border crossings from the Gaza Strip and Jericho. and sets the size of the Jericho area at about 60 square kilometres.

The Palestinians denied there was any agreement, and Mr. Musa has hacked them, saying there were several documents which were not final.

Negotiator Shaath wrote to his Israeli counterpart, General Amnon Shahak, on Friday saying Mr. Arafat wanted seven amendments to the Israeli proposais. Mr. Shaath did not reveal what they were.

(Continued on page 5)

Settlers move into Palestinian school

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli settlers moved caravans overnight on to a site on the Mount of Olives where a Palestinian girls' school is being hnilt, police said Tnesday.

The settlers brought seven caravans to the East Jerusalem site during darkness and intend to bring in five more.

Their rabbi Beoni Eiloo said: "We are not creating a new Jewish quarter in East Jerusalem but expanding Beit Orot Yeshiva."

The scholars erected a tent at the site last October but the then-mayor, Teddy Kollek, slapped a ban on further ex-

pansion.
"We are pleased to note that the Jerusalem's new mayor, Ehud Olmert, is trying to apply his policies," said the rabbi. Israeli Radio said the settlers had the permits needed to in-

stall the caravans. Thousands of Israeli worshippers prayed Monday at the western wall in Jerusalem's Old City for rain and at the same time against the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) self-rule accord in

the occupied territories. Religious nationalists, ultraorthodox Jews and settlers came from all over the country

gious authorities to pray for "divine mercy over the dangers set by the accord (with the PLO) against the survival of the Jewish people."

The believers, who were protected by police forces sent to the area especially for the occasion, also asked God in their prayers to "let the rain fall" to put an end to the so far dry winter this year.

The prayers, conducted by several senior rabbies, called for an end to the "violence against Jews" in the Israelioccupied territories. The pious also implored

God to "pacify the heart" of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin so that he would not implement the autonomy accord. In other developments — the

army shot and arrested a Palestinian activist of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in the Gaza Strip charged with the killing of two Israeli soldiers, Palestinian sources said Tuesday. Mohammad Shbeir, 21, was

ambushed in the town of Khan Yunes late Monday and shot in the leg, they said. Two army reservists hitching

a ride were kidnapped and (Continued on page 5)

U.S. in contact with Middle East parties

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said Monday contacts were continuing between the parties on the implementation of the declaration of principles signed in September by Israel and the Palestine Liheration Organisation

"We've had in recent days and weeks extensive contacts with the parties," Mr. McCurry said when he was asked if the United States was concerned about the apparent impasse in negotiations between Israel and the PLO, "We know that their contacts are contipuing.

"We think it's essential that both the Israelis and the Palestinians remain focused on the main goal, which is after all the implementation of the declaration of principles," he said. "That is surely the best way to change the realities on the ground that both parties want to see addressed.

"What you are watching is a negotiation that's in progress that we are not a party to," the spokesman emphasised. "We are monitoring it very closely and will continue to monitor it very closely.' Mr. McCurry suggested the

two sides were staking out posicions and discussing things in the context of their own dialogue. "If we are mindful of that and remember that ulomately these talks are aimed at implementing the declaration, we'll be able to measure their progress as we watch the negotiations in the days ahead," he The spokesman said the Un-

ited States is "moving ahead" with plans for meetings in Washington later this month with the heads of the Syrian and Lehanese delegations to the bilateral peace talks which are expected to resume late this month or in early February. He termed the talks with the Syrian and Lebanese delegations "preconsultations" and said "we'll be exploring ways to move forward on those two tracks and then we'll be in touch with all the parties about resuming the overall discussions in Washington,"

The separate talks with the Syrian and Lebanese delegation leaders will focus on efforts to "reinvigorate" those two tracks and produce forward movement in their negotiations with Israel," he ex-

Israel expands Golan colony ahead of Syrian peace moves

Khaddam: Damascus turned down many Golan offers

OCCUPIED GOLAN HEIGHTS (Agencies) -Israel founded a new settlement on the occupied Golan Heights on Tuesday, less than two weeks before Syrian President Hafez Al Assad is due to discuss peace moves with U.S. President Bill Clinton in

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, who formally dedicated the expansion of the Golan town of Katzrin, rejected suggestions that the hundreds of new homes planned for the settlement would harm already stalled Middle East peace talks with Syria.

He said the new colony was part of a commitment made by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rahin's government to all. Israelis.

"The government is ohligated, above all else, 10 fulfilling its promise to all residents of Israel, to see to the security

and well-being of their daily lives," he told reporters.

Washington, which sees renewed Israeli-Syrian talks as vital to an overall Middle East accord, has long viewed expanding Jewish settlements as an obstaele 10 progress in negotiations.

But many of the Golan's 15,000 Jewish settlers, who share the Heights with 18,000 Druze Arabs, are members of Mr. Rahin's Labour Party and have mounted a nationwide campaign against "territorial concessions" lo Damascus.

Mr. Ben-Eliezer, a former army general said once the talks resume, "the question will come whether we will give up anything and how much we will give up."

"As long as we don't get answers that guarantees our safety. I don't see any place for thinking about giving up the Golan Heights," he said.

Three Israelis stood nearby with placards declaring "peace with the Golan," a slogan used by the right-wing opposition to underline its determination to keep the Golan as part of

Syrian Vice President Abdul

Halim Khaddam said Tuesday in Damascus that Syria had refused many attempts to reach a solution over the Golan Heights and reiterated his country's call for a full Israeli pullout. His comment was an appa-

rent effort to bolster Syria's position in advance of President Assad's Jan. 16 summit meeting in Geneva with President Clinton. The summit is expected to

reach a settlement between Israel and Syria. Mr. Khaddam did not elaborate on the contents of the

be crucial in reviving efforts to

(Continued on page 5)

Middle East Watch castigates Algerian regime, opposition

By Elaine Ganley The Associated Press

PARIS - Middle East Wateh, an independent human rights group, has published a scathing report on abuses in Algeria blaming both the government and armed Islamic groups while chastising Western nations for their silence.

On the verge of major gains lowards democracy barely two years ago. Algeria civil war in which the rights of no one are inviolate and the democratic process has been all but abandoned," the U.S. based group said.

Its report, "Human Rights Abuses in Algeria: No One is Spared," portrays the evolution of a system that disregards human rights in order to safeguard the country from Muslim fundamentalism.

"Sadly, the regime has done little io the field of human rights to distinguish itself from the... human rights disaster it claimed to be preventing," the report said. The report cites special

anti-terrorism courts and press restrictions as major sources of human rights abuse.
It called on the militarybacked regime to void con-victions by the special courts,

ensure fair trials, halt torture and stop prosecuting journal-It called on the Islamic opposition to use all means to

end violence and asked Western nations to link loans and aid to "tangible progress" in human rights and resuming the democratie process. Nearly 400 people have

been sentenced to death and 26 executions carried out in "grossly unfair trials," the report notes. This gives Algeria "the highest number of judicial executions in 1993 for politically motivated offenses of any country in the Arab World, Excepting

Iraq."
Killings more than doubled over the past year, with civilians "from all walks of life." including intellectuals, journalists and foreigners among the victims, the report noted.

Middle East Watch said armed groups and the banned fundamentalist party, the Islamic Salvation Front. share equal responsibility for

condemn killings.

Officials say about 2,000 people have died since parliamentary elections were

cancelled in January 1992 to

thwart a victory by the front.
"Middle East Watch de-plores the fact that (front) spokesmen have sought to justify the killings of some civilians and, to our know-ledge, have made no statements clearly condemning the targetting of civilians, the report said.

It said the banned party, whose leaders are in prison or exile, has "an obligation to promote respect for humanitarian principles" as long as it stakes a claim to political

power.
The 67-page report provides a detailed account of the special anti-terrorism courts, set up in September

These courts "fall far short of internationally recognised standards for a fair trial." Middle East Watch said. Anonymous judges, habitual detention beyond a new 12day limit, lack of access to lawyers or doctors, and de-nial of speedy trials all com-bine to deny defendants due

The "broad and vague" definition of a terrorist or subversive act can include obstructing traffic in public thoroughfares, the report

It quoted lawyers as saying safeguards against extracting confession through force do not function in the special court system. Defendants are consistently denied medical exams to prove torture, it

less than three years ago. Algeria's press was one of the Arab World's liveliest. It is now shaekled, and "the pressure has come not only from the regime but also from those seeking to overthrow it.

The government continues to boast of a free press, but intimidates journalists with jail sentences, suspensions of their newspapers or manipulation of state-run enterprises on which papers depeod, from printing facilities to advertising, the report

Journalists also are cowed by radicals suspected of rgeting the profession.



NEW COLONY: Israeli settlers Tuesday bring school site in the Mount in caravans to the site of a Palestinian girls' Jerusalem (AFP photo) school site in the Mount of Olives in occupied

Aideed aide claims reconciliation talks amid rising Mogadishu tension

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Somali warlord Mohammad Farrah Aideed is holding peace talks in Kenya with his rival factions and there are signs of progress, a top aide said on

Issa Mohammad Siad, foreign affairs secretary for General Aideed's Somalia National Alliance (SNA), told Reuters the talks were between Gen. Aideed and representatives of the "group of 12," a coalition of factions headed by his main foe Ali Mahdi Mohammad. "There are positive signs,"

The talks were being held in secret sponsored by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi at his residence in Nakuro, 160 kilometres northwest of Nairobi, the aide said.

But Mr. Ali Mahdi told Reuters in Mogadishu the warring groups had not yet made any direct contact in Kenya.

"This morning I personally spoke with the chairman (of the group of 12) in Nairobi and can assure that there have been no talks," Mr. Ali Mahdi

However, he welcomed "this process of reconciliation with the SNA" and said he

wanted to see it progress.

A Kenyan official said top government aides were mediating in "high-level consultations" between the feud-Talks between representa-

tives of the SNA and the group of 12 collapsed in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa in December, Foreign mediators

Since then Western governments have stepped up their troop withdrawals from Soma-lia, U.N. officials fear civil war street.

Aid groups quit

Two U.N. aid agencies evacuated their Mogadishu offices Monday after a wav eof new attacks on humanitarian groups throughout Somalia. The U.N. Development Programme and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) emptied their shared compound two days after an unidentified attacker threw a molotov cocktail at a

nearby building. Benoit D'ansembourg. UNHCR field officer, said the incident might be relaxed to a dispute between the building's landlord and armed guards who used to work there. It may be "a kind of warning," he

Tensions also rose Monday in other parts of the warwracked city.

Machine-gun fire could be heard near the line that divides the competing militias of south and north Mogadishu. And across town, outside

the compound that serves as command centre for the 33,000 U.N. and U.S. troops in Somalia, Turkish guards backed by American soldiers faced off against a crowd of Somalis looking for work.

The crowd, which had heard rumours that U.N. jobs would be available, grew restless and. blocked the main road past the

compound when the jobs failed to materialise. The Turks fired tear-gas before moving armoured personnel carriers and infantrymen into the

"All of us are jobless we're not politicians," said one of the Somalis present, 20year-old Hassan Ali.

Eventually, the situation settled down and the U.N. troops pulled back to their usuaal guard posts. No injuries were reported.

Somalis and U.N. officials alike are tense, waiting to see what happens after March 31, when the American and most other Western U.N. troops

Aid agencies, which often operate with armed Somali guards instead of U.N. military protection, have been targetted in a series of recent attacks.

Germans to protect pullout

Bonn is sending extra troops to Somalia to protect German soldiers when they leave the United Nations peacekeeping operation, a defence ministry spokesman said.

The spokesman said the move was part of Bonn's decision last month to withdraw from Somalia in tandent with American forces, and was not a reaction to clashes between Somali clans or attacks on

U.N. troops.
The spokesman said 33 extra soldiers had already joined the 1,300-strong German conlin-gent in the north Somali lown of Belet Huen, some 300 kilometres north of Moga-

U.S. sees progress of exodus of **Syrian Jews**

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Monday Syria was keeping its promise to allow all Syrian Jews who wished to emigrate to do so and expressed optimism that the process would be completed within days.

State Department spokes-man Miehael McCurry said: "We have seen very good progress on that and the progress is continuing. We expect that all those who wish to obtain travel documents will obtain them in the days ahead.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who is to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva Jan. 16, promised Secretary of State Warren Christopher last month that all Syrian Jews who wished to leave would be allowed to do so by the end of

He did not quite meet that deadline but a senior official said Washington was confident the pledge would be honoured well before the Clinton-Assad

"There has been ... a sizable number that have been granted exit visas and we would just reiterate that we would expect all those who wish to obtain travel documents to obtain them in the days ahead," Mr.

McCurry said.
About 850 Jews remained in Syria before the latest exodus began. American-Jewish groups reported last week that about 200 had been granted exit visas.

Some 200-300 Jews are expected to remain in Syria. either because they are old or in ill-health or because they do not want to leave. Most of the emigres have settled in the New York area were there is a Syrian-Jewish community of some 35,000.

Israel has long regarded the Syrian-Jewish issue as an important human rights question

Syrian-Israeli peace talks are expected to resume in Washington later this month, soon after the Clinton-Assad meeting. Mr. McCurry said Syrian and Lebanese envoys were expected in the United States later this week to prepare the negotiations.

On the separate Israeli-Palestinian talks, which have temporarily broken down, Mr. McCurry said the United States viewed their current difficulties as natural in tough

NEWS IN BRIEF

100 Iranians return home from Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) — One hundred Iranians of Arab origin who were seized by Iraqi forces in the first months of the Iran-Iraq war have returned home to Iran in the past mined months, the official IRNA news agency reported. Quoting as informed sources in the southwestern province of Khuzestan two countries. But it did not specify how many had already been repairiated. It said increasing numbers of Iranians were coming home from Iraq through Khuzestan and that permission to return was being granted after the "necessary of the Iranian expatriates did not have interrogations." Most of the Iranian expatriates did not have interrogation cards and needed accommodation, IRNA said in Bentul discussed adding that they were Arab normada. IRNA said some 5,000 Iranians of Arab origin were kidnan and interior. Vocation with the fact worker works and women appear worker worke Azadegan region near the Iraqi border.

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Guerrillas stage 85 operations

Tyre, Lebanon (AFP) - Guerrillas carried out 85 anti-Israel operations in South Lebanon in December, in the largest of daring occupied in the arrest wounded in the arrests which also less than South seed in the content wounded in the arrests which also less than South seed in the content wounded in the arrests which also less than South seed in the content wounded in the arrests which also less than South seed in the content wounded in the arrests which also less than South seed in the content wounded in the arrests which also less than South seed in the content in the arrests which also less than South seed in the content in the arrests which also less than South seed in the content in the arrests which also less than South seed in the content in the arrests which also less than South seed in the content in the same seed wounded in the attacks, which also left three South Lebanon spongard in the conference (SLA) militiamen dead and hurt nine More and special Army (SLA) militiamen dead and hurt nine. Most of the safetyens and special operations were claimed by the Iranian-backed Hisbaltan the safetyens. operations were claimed by the Iranian-backed Hizbollah. The leanon, Children pro-Syrian Amal said it was responsible for six attacks and the leanon, Children were killed in an Israeli air raid on Dec. 28. Three Palestinians were shot dead by an Israeli patrol after their inchination organisms were shot dead by an Israeli patrol after they infiltrated in the operation was elaimed by the Palestinian in Education Organisa northern Israel. The operation was elaimed by the Palestinian in Education of Organisa group, Fatah-Intifada. Police in the southern participated She sail said most of the attacks targetted SLA positions on the greed the need to supoutskirts of Israel's self-declared "security zone." In addition outskirts of Israel's self-declared "security zone." In addition appear in present to using Katyusha rockets and mortage the guerrilles and interest in the security zone. to using Karyusha rockets and mortars, the guerrillas also used in addition of special sager surface-to-surface missiles Sager surface-to-surface missiles.

New Turkish-Cypriot regime takes office

ANKARA (R) - The new Turkish Cypriot coalition government formed after general elections held last month, took office Monday. Prime Minister Hakki Atun of the Democratic Party (DP) 100k over from outgoing Premier Dervis Eroglu of the National Unity Party (UBP) in a ceremony, it said. The coalition government of the DP and the Republican Turkish Party (CTP) of Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister Ozker Ozgur was approved on Saturday by Rauf Denktash president of the breakaway Turkish-Cypriot state. "With the coalinon protocol, we have formed a healthy and long-lasting government," Mr. Atun told reporters after taking office. The UBP came first in the polls with 17 seats in the 50-member house but the opposition which had boycotted the heavily UBP-dominated parliament before the elections was not keen to join the coalition.

Iran smashes 'pornographic' film network

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iranian authorities have smashed a "pornographic" film production and distribution network in a village southeast of the capital, arresting and convicting the ringleaders, a newspaper reported. A court in Semnan village found the defendants guilty of being "corrupters on earth" for producing videotapes of "illegal sexual relations" and distributing them to young people, the Kayhan daily said. Such a verdict requires the death penalty under Islamie law, which has been in place since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The paper gave no dates for the arrests or the trial, nor say how many were found guilty. Wealthier Iranians in major cities readily obtain American and European videos, and the Iranian press regularly reports discoveries of "depraved" material. Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, Iran's chief judge, said last: year that those convicted of distributing illegal films should face the "maximum penalty" in order to "prevent the spread of destructive, anti-Islamic values."

Group calls on Iran to hand over suspects

GENEVA (AFP) - A human rights group here called on tran's U.N. envoy to hand over two tra wanted in Switzerland on suspicion of murder, and whom France last week refused to extradite to its European neighbour." The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) said Iran should return the men, who were reported to the Islamic Republic by France last week, if it wished to convince the world that it was not involved in international "terrorism." The pair, Mohsen Sharif Esfahani, 37, and Ahmad Taheri, 32, are suspected of involvement in the April 1990 murder near Geneva of Kazem Rajavi, brother of Massoud Rajavi, leader of the Mujahedeen, and armed group opposed to the Iranian government. In a message to Tehran's U.N. ambassador Sirus Nasseri, IFOR spokesman David Littman recalled that Iran's representative on the U.N. human rights sub-comminec, Mustafa Alaee, said in August that his country was "ready to cooperate" for "further clarification" of the murder allegation.

Turkish forces in Cyprus fired on'

ISTANBULIR) — Turkish Cypriot officials reported to U.N. peacekeepers that positions of Turkish armed forces stationed in north Cyprus came under fire from the Greek side on Monday, the semi-official Anatolia agency said. There were no casualties. It said there rounds were fired around noon at Turkish forces stationed near the village of Madenlik across the green line, which divides the two sides. In the past two weeks Turkish Cypriots had alleged a number of shooting incidents by the Greek Cypriots.

Slovak minister meets Peres

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Slovak Foreign Minister Jozef Moravcik held talks with his Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres on reinforcing bilateral ties on arrival here Monday for a two-day visit. Mr. Moravcik and Mr. Peres discussed means of strengthening cooperation on economic, agricultural and scientific issues, officials said.

For senior PLO diplomat, visit home breaks ice with Israel By Said Ghazali visit that is to end Saturday or logue by arms and will adopt While walking through the taken a nose dive. "guerrilla diplomat," moving

The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM - There was something of the child in the most Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) figure to visit Israel and the occupied territories as he bounded into a wellknown pastry shop in Jerusalem's Old City for the first time in 25 years.

The owner recognised the man in the dark suit, crisp shirt and red tie as Afif Safieh, 43, the PLO representative in London, and gave him hooey cakes for

But farther along Mr. Safieh looked a bit deflated in the maze of higher priced fur shops and cafes in the Jewish quarter that replaced the Arab stores he remembered.` It was, he said, a trip of

"immense joy and great Although the three-week

Sports N.B.A.
News in French
Le Journat De L'Histoire
News in Arabic

22:00 News in English 22:29 Film Till Murder Do Us Pan"

PRAYER TIMES

16:49 Maghreb

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich Tel. 810740

St. Joseph Church Tcl. 624590. Church of the Annusciation Tcl.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrasancta Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Annunclations

mblies of God Charch, Tct.

JORDAN TELEVISION

20:06 . 20:30 . 21:19 .

632785.

Sunday has been billed as a private one, Mr. Safieh is the most senior figure from the PLO to lour the occupied territories and Israel openly. He has made it a charm offensive aimed at Israeli officialdom. Israeli politicians like

Minister of Communications Shulamit Aloni, a leading dove, attended huge receptions Mr. Safieh gave at his mother's East Jerusalem home or visited as he held "We are in a situation of

unavoidable coexistence, Mr. Safieh told his audiences repeatedly. He condemned violence

that produces victims on both sides — a message the Israeli government is always seeking from top PLO officials to help with the audience at home.

His talks were sprinkled with sayings: For example, that Arabs and Israelis should abandon "the dia-.

Armenia 771331.

775261.

St. Ephra Amman 652526.

824328.

Agaba

Clearch Tel. 630851, Tel.

Orthodex Cherch Tcl.

areac Tcl.675691.

ion Church Tcl. 771751.

German-speaking Evangelical C gregation Tel: 684195 The Church of Jesus Christ of Lat Day Saints Tel: 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of

It will be partly cloudy and winds will be westerly active. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy, winds will be

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Aqaba 20, Humidity readings: Amman 99 per cent, Aqaba 46 per

moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp

..... 12 /22

hopefully the arms of dia-

himself to the occupied territories, but also visited parts of Israel. His mother said the two drove through Tel Aviv. Safed, Acre and Tiberias. She said he turned down an invitation to go to Israel's parliament and other official places, stressing that the visit was private.

Mr. Safieh even ventured into extremely hostile territory - the Jewish neighbourhoods that ring Jerusalem. Israel planned these neighbourhoods to anchor its claim to the entire city. The PLO wants the eastern half of Jerusalem as the capital of its would-be state, even though settlements have tipped the

population balance there to

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NIGHT DUTY

mad Al Izzah

Dr. Mohammad Al Zu hr (--)

Dr. Yousef Harzallah 989075

Khalifch pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

831039

623673

AMMAN:

Nasser Ibrahim

Al Asema pharmacy Nairoukb pharmacy Al Salam pharmacy

Y accord pharmac

Nairoujh pharmacy

ZAROA

Fires pharmacy
Fordows pharmacy

160,000 Jews vs. 155,000 The final status of the city is not to be negotiated until talks scheduled to start by

Pisgat Zeev development in East Jerusalem, Mr. Safieh logue."
Mr. Safieh did not restrict avoided confrontation with an Israeli construction worker who heckled him. When the man yelled.

"Palestinians will never get any part of Jerusalem" Mr. Safieh moved away, curtly wishing him good day. With no progress in implementing the peace plan. visits like his are the only visible result of the peace

The original timetable of starting the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in December has been postponed indelinant.

Implementation talks are snagged on disagreements over control of border crossings, the size of Jericho and

security arrangements.
With the death toll in clashes since the agreement was signed Sept. 13 reaching 50 Palestinians and 20 Israelis, public support has

Civil Defence Department foll11t Civil Defence Immediate

Highway Police 843412
Traffic Police 896,300

Public Security Department 670321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage

Complaints
Telephone Information

Waler Authority

Excine Power

(directory assistance)

lordan Electricity Authority .. 815615

Company h.h.w.
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Ind. Airport 08-53200

Central Ammon Telephone

Israeli officials made encouraging noises about Mr. Safieh.
"When the average Israeli

sees Palestinian middle-class people and hears them talking, he will no longer carry the same fears and stereotypes he has from watching a hooded Hamas activist shooting a gun," said David Kreizelman, ileputy director of the government press office. Mr. Safich left Jerusalem

in 1966 for Belgium as an 18-year-old student studying political science.

Two years later he visited Jerusalem, where his family can trace its ancestors for hundreds of years, but was denied citizenship because he had not been there when Israel took its first census after seizing the eastern half of the city in June 1967.

Forced abroad, Mr. Safieli joined the PLO, lirst as a student leader in Belgium and France and then as a

HOSPITALS

Ammon:
Hussein Medical Centre . 81381372
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn . 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn . 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity . 64241/2
Mallass J. Atturan . 634140

664171/4

6/6127/37

77710t/3

(07)275555

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN:

Shinesani Hospital ... University Hospital ... Al-Mussher Hospital . The Islamic, Abdah .

ALAhli, Ahdali

Italian, Al-Muhajreen

rmy.9Marka

Princess Basma tilospiral Greek Catholic Hospital

Ibs Al Nafecs Hospital

ZARQA:

RED.

623101

773111

hir, J. Ashrufich

Queen Ata Hospital 60224050

Zarga Covi. Hospital (09)983323 Zarga National Hospital (09)900560 Ibn Sina Hospital (09)906732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (109)90000

Process Hava Hospital (03)314111

from one country to another in Europe and the Middle He was not involved in any violence during the bloody

years of the cooffict between Israel and the Palestinians. lle married a Belgian woman and his two daughters, Diana, 10, and Randa, 8. have yet to learn Arabic. Although he expressed in-

terest in visiting his family's pre-1948 home in the Bekaa area of Jerusalem, now a chie Israeli neighbourhood, Mr. Safieh said he believed making the peace work requires forgetting all that. He said the ultimate goal

should be a two-state solution, but for the moment the most important thing was to end the diaspora of people like himself. "It is time for Palestinians

to have family reunions in Arah cities like ... Hehron, Jerusalem or Gaza rather than on the east coast of the United States," he said.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Overn Alla International

Airport Tel. (08)5,1200-5, where is should always be verified.

Royal Jordenian (RJ) Flights

...... Duhal, Abu Ohabi (RJ)

..... Jeddah (RJ)

Frankfurt, Viene

...... Toronso, Montreal (RJ)

Madrid, Geneva (R

.. Rome (RJ)

ARRIVALS

(Terminal 1)

15:10

	and companies. Jor
HLIAZ PARIWAY YDARL	a Juliane e La arrott
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday Arr. Danmacus 5:00 p.m. every Monday	to praced out the 2 spe

12:25 Abu Dhabi, Doha I GF1 14:35 Karachi, Abu Dhabi [PI] 18:15 Paris, Damascus (AF) 19:45 Berrui (ME) DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

67:30	Rome
14:12 ···	Amsterdam, New York
18:30	Berlin London
19:30	Rome
17:40	fernebul
11:10	Tunis, Casablanca
19:30	Colombo
17:45	Carre
70:00	Riyadh
20:20	New Delhi
20:36	Aden
24:45	Aqaba
21:30	Calcutta, Bangkok
22:45	castotta, pangtuk
	Sanaa
Other	Flights (Terminal
	Bertut Pare

98:15 10:25 ···· Beitul (ME)

Carrot Cauliflower Onion (dry) Onion (green) Pepper (hot) Pepper (sweet) Polate Radish

MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. 700/400

.. Sansally Other Flights (Terminal 2) . Jeddah (SU) .. Rome (AZ) Abu Dhabr, Karachi (PI)

(R) 2) 380/150 380/300 220/160 240/160 240/160 260/160 160/ 80

Haddad said ano grouping prof and to look into ber strategy to a specific and han poents in the wo 150 / 100 jostijute, 2 frai

hadded said the and the raining cou to lyn 1.015. during was establishe international

Conference Arab tackles education issues

AMMAN (Petra) - An eduthat a cational conference held by the United Nations Educational Bureau in the Arab States (UNEDBAS) at the Jesuite University in Beirut discussed issues related to early childhood and elementary educaoon, adult illiteracy, vocational training, as well as educating the bin the Arab World.

Maha Ghannam, coordinator of the charity societies in the Israel-occupied West Bank who participated in the conference, said experts and specialists from Lehanon, Palestine the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nacions Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisa-tion (UNESCO) participated ions t in the conference. She said they stressed the need to support vocacional training programmes and called for preparing radio and television programmes to direct people towards vocational education

> Ms. Ghannam said the participants also called for conducting a census to determine the number of illiterate people in the Arab World.

NAF helps, 1,006 families

Delwai . INVICTOR : TAFILEH (Petra) - The nnant: National Aid Fund (NAF) last year granted JD 322,428 in cash and humanitarian assistance to 1,006 families in the las i Tafileh Governorate, accord-1. They ing to Director of the Social Development department in Tafileh Zeid Maghaireh. He pointed out that the fund carried out social studies covering 354 families in the governo-rate, and that 242 families of thee were found in need and considered for the cash assistance provided by the fund.

Mr. Maghaireh said that the fund had supported 46 families to set up their own businesses, thus bringing to 202 the num-ber of families who bave received cash assistance to set up condia . their own income-generating

in the A IBS to hold 65 courses nan Da in 1993

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AMMAN (Petra) — The Insti-tute of Banking Studies will fication hold 65 training courses and seminars io Amman, Irhid and Agaba in 1994, according to the institute's director Adeeh s stanos Haddad..

Dr. Haddad, who was speaking about the institute's nd noon training plan for the year 1994, nik aca said the training programme was based on the actual training needs of hanks, financial institutions and specialised cre-

> Dr. Haddad added that the institute has expanded its training services to benefit the staff of the Amman Financial Market, financial hrokers, Social Security Corporaciou, Customs Department, Income tAx Department, money exchangers. insurance companies, Jordan Investment Corporation and the Orphans fund.

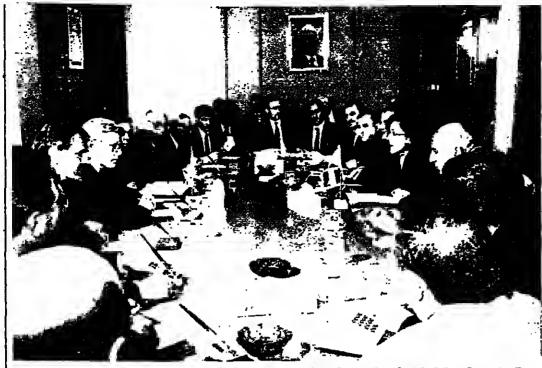
> He pointed out tht a special committee, formed in accordance with a decision hy the institute's board of directors bas finalised the oecessary steps to transform the institute into a specialised university college, offering a bachelor degree in financial and banking

Dr. Haddad said another committee, grouping prominent bankers and academics, was formed to look into existing training materials and develop their strategy to cope with the financial and banking developments in the world. The committee will also draw up the institute's training strategies

> Dr. Haddad said the institute held 66 training courses, attended by 1,015, during the year 1993.

The IBS was established in 1970 as an international uni-Versity college offering a mid-dle diploma in banking and financial science. So far, a total of 885 people have graduated

from the institute.



Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf Tuesday holds talks with a Canadian delegation headed by Ontario Premier Bob Rae on economic and trade ties

Khalaf, Ontario minister discussed ties; businessmen want a fair balance of trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — The premier of the Canadiao state of Ontario, Bob Rae Tuesday held talks with Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf and said that Canada wishes to further boost economic and trade ties with Jordan.

Mr. Rae, who arrived earlier Tuesday at the head of a delegtion on a several-day visit to Jordan, also said that his country would like to found its ties with Jordan on sound basis.

Praising the Jordanian leadership's role in contributing to the Middle East region's stability, Mr. Rae said that Canada would like to see stronger economic ties.

Both the minister and Mr. Rae emphasised the need for developed economic relacions and underlined the role of the private sector in boosting the exchange of trade between the two sides and launching joint investment schemes.

Dr. Khalaf said Jordan encourages foreign investments in Jordan, at any level and in

different forms, noting that the Kingdom was taking measures towards encourging investments and opening the way for more investors.

She said the new laws or amendments to existing laws would cater to the requirements, of new investments in Jordan.

The minister outlined the current economic and trade situation, pointing out that the wbole region remains unstable due to the political developments and the refugee prob-

Both sides noted that Jordan could serve as a spring board for Canada in the region.

Canada's ambassador to Jordan Andrew Robinson was among the audience which grouped the Canadian delegtion and senior ministry offi-

Meanwhile, the Jordanian Busioessmen Association (JBA), which is hosting a meeting with Mr. Rae at the Regency Hotel Wednesday,

issued a statement on the eve of his visit in which it noted that Jordan's trade with Canada as a whole was very negligihle compared to Jordan's trade with the rest of the world.

The statement said that while Jordan's exports to Canada in 1991 stood at JD 94,700, it dropped to JD 20,700 in 1992, while its imports were worth JD 15,824,200 and JD 10,374,100 respectively.

Noting that trade with Canada could be promoted through the Jordan-Canada Business Council, established in 1993, the statement said that the adverse halance of trade on Jordan's side should be negotiated with Canadian officials,

The JBA, said comprehensive discussions and dialogues should be conducted in order to conclude fruitful results, as Jordan can be an important trade partner to Canada at both bilateral and regional

Mohammad Rifai, disco-

vered the robbery when he

went to work in the morning.

Mr. Rifai told police when

he opened the door be found

papers scattered on the floor,

the door of the safe broken

Preliminary invesogations

by police indicate that the

robber/s was/were able to

hreak one of the windows.

theo used a sharp object to

According to the report,

the only thing missing was the

money. Police are investigat-

The body of a 53-year-old man was discovered Monday

hy Al Hashemi Al Janoubi

police as A.M.B., was disco-

vered in a deserted house in

the Hashemi Al Janouhi

A forensic doctor who ex-

amined the body attributed

the death to several knife

stahbs to the neck and sto-

mach. Police are investigat-

Rat gnaws child's toe

A two and a half-month-old

Mafraq girl lost a piece of her

right toe when a rat attacked

I.N. was in her family's

house sleeping when a rat

chewed at ber toe and fingers,

according to a nurse at Mafraq

ooo now, and we gave her the

necessary vaccinations so she doesn't get infected," the

hospital unol she is completely

Jordan Times that the com-

munity has been plagued by

rats which, he said, walk freely

houses and streets, and it is a

problem we have been suffer-

ing from for a long time," he

The Mafraq community is

not the only one that suffers;

Ramtba and some refugee

camps east of Irbid have had

extensive material losses, due

bage is disposed close to our

community and that is a good

place for rats to live on and

attack us from," the Mafraq

"The problem is that gar-

"Rats are scattered in our

"The girl is in good condi-

"The girl will stay in the

A Mafrag resident told the

ing the murder.

Military Hospital.

cured," she added.

nurse said.

in the street.

to rats too.

resident said.

The victim, identified by

pry open the safe.

ing the case.

Body found

and the money missing.

Robbers seem to find railway beams a rare commodity

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Ma'an police Monday aborted a robbery of wooden railway beams in Baten Al Ghoul area, in Al Mondawara, according to a police report.

Three people aged 29, 25 and 16 were arrested by police while attempting to dismantle the beams by using gas and oxygen. Police reports indicate that

it took the three men more than five hours to pull the wooden beams before they were discovered by police.

An official at the Ma'an Railway Station told the Jordan Times that this is the first time in ten years that someone tries to steal these wooden beams.

The official said the reason someone might think of stealing these beams is their value

"This kind of wood is very expensive because it is made to withbold all kinds of weather conditions and it does not absorb water," he

The official said the people who tried to steal the wood wanted to use it for building

"People who thought of doing it probably want to use them to huild a farm fence or to use them for huilding a house because they are as solid as metal," he added.

This kind of wood is very expensive because it is imported to the Kingdom, he

added. Post office robbed

Irbid police are searching for thief/ves who broke into Hrema post office, in Irbid, and escaped with JD 76, Monday, according to a police report.

The post office director, in the market. WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Art exhibition by Sudanese artist Abdul Qadir Al Bakhit at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Art exhibition by artist Sadik Kwaish entitled "Talisma" at Baladna Art Gallery.
- Art exhibition by Jordanian artist Suha Mash'al at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salman on bedouin culture at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition on the 100th anniversary of the death of French novelist Guy De Maupassant at the French Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibition of Iraqi books at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Art exhibition by a number of Jordanian artists entitled "The Sixth Exhibition — Samples From The Contemporary Jordanian Art 93" at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibition "Prints and Drawings of Fakhrelnissa Zeid" (1915-1991) until the 15th of January '94 at Darat al Funu: of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "Permanent" Exhibition. (Tel. 643251/2).

DRAMA

☆ Drama for children entitled "The Question" at the Royal Cultural Centre at II:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

A one-hour programme featuring a condensation of the most popular games of the week with play-by-play announcement at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

SEMINAR

☆ Open seminar on working women and the Jordanian work project with the participation of Ms. Itaf Halasa, from the Ministry of Labour, and Ms. Asma Khader at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 6:00 p.m.

dan," Mr. Hussein told the Jordan Times. Mr. Hussein as well as other officials described the report as Israeli propaganda aimed at creating trouble between Jordan and the Palesti-

According to the Israeli

By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Senior officials

Wednesday dismissed as

baseless an Israel Radio re-

port that Jordan has banned

the flow of agricultural pro-

duce from the Gaza Strip

"The report is totally base-

less and unfounded," said Wahih Hussein, head of the

agriculture section at the Department of Palestinian

The flow of Palestinian agricultural produce through

Jordan for exports continues

unimpeded and "no such han

reported by the Israeli media

has been adopted by Jor-

through the Kingdom.

Affairs.

report, the purported ban

of Gaza produce in Jordan was imposed because Jordan was upset with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for its lack of political coordination with the

Officials laughed off the

"It is another link in the chain of the Israeli-orchestrated campaign to poison the atmosphere between Jordan and the PLO and the Palestinians in the occupied territories," said a senior official. who preferred anonymity.

"There is a political decision to support the Palestinians living in the occupied territories to the best of Jordan's abilities, and there is no logic in suggesting that we are adopoing moves contrary to that decision," added the official.

Ministry of Agriculture officials said routine permissions had already been issued, allowing fruits and vegetables from the Gaza Strip to enter Jordan in transit for export purposes be-tween Jan. 1 and April 30, 1994, and that West Bank produce could enter Jordan without restraints except those in place to protect local

Officials deny ban on entry

As a rule, West Bank produce is allowed into Jordan for exports as well as to make up for the shortfalls in local production depending on season, the officials said.

produce

There have been e few occasions when Jordan had no choice hut to block the entry of certain products because Israelis tried to "speak in" their products disguised as Palestinian products, the officials said, noting that allowing such items to enter Jordan would be in violation of the Arab boycott of Israel.

Jordan imports around \$30 million worth of Palestinian products every year, including fruits and vegetables, meat products and olive oil as well as building stones, and does not impose any customs on them, considering the imports as internal trade.

Nearly 12,000 tonnes of fruits and vegetables from the West Bank and nearly 3,000 tonnes from the Gaza Strip entered Jordan during 1993, according to official figures. The bulk of the produce was destined for the Gulf states.

Isreal does not allow the export of Jordanian products to the occupied territories.

Trade between Jordan and the occupied territories has been an issue under discussion at varying forums and stages among three main par-ties involved — Jordan, the Palestinians and Israel - in the 26-month-old Middle East peace process.

But no definite agreement has been reached since Israel has been trying to maintain the occupied territories as a protected market for its own products while seeking to impose ceilings, tariffs and levies on non-Israeli products, officials say.

Cabinet briefed on Qatari, Egyptian ministers' visits; Majali urges field trips by ministers to governorates

AMMAN (Petra) - The Cabinet Tuesday reviewed the outcome of a visit to Jordan this week by Sheikh Ben Jas-sem Al Thani, Qatar's foreign minister, io the light of a report submitted to the council by, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan.

Agreement was reached with the Qatari minister on the formation of a joint committee to discuss in detail ways of promoting bilateral cooperation in economic, political, informational and investment fields, as well as cooperation between the private sectors in the two countries, according to Mr. Al Hassan.

He said that Qatar and Jordan decided to reactivate television programme exchanges, to resume cooperation between their respective national news agencies and to also set up a higher joint council to louk into future joint invest-

Mr. Al Hassan said that the two sides agreed oo the need to stimulate the exchange of trade, expertise and manpower in education, petroleum industries and medical services.

The joiot Jordanian-Qatari Committee is expected to bold its meeting in Doha in the first quarter of this year, said Mr. Al Hassan in his report.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Maiali outlined the outcome of . talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa who Mon-day delivered a message to His Majesty King Hussein from President Mubarak of Egypt.

Mr. Musa, explained Dr. Majali, discussed with the King three main issues coocerning the Israeli-Palestinian negooa-

The first issue was related to

the question of supervisioo of the crossing points between Jordan and the West Bank, the secood concerned the area of the Jericho district from which the Israeli troops plan to withdraw and the third issue concerned security along the border dividing the Jericho area

from the West Bank. According to Mr. Musa, the failed to reach an agreement to : settle their differences during the Cairo talks, but the Israelis have submitted a memorandum to the Palestinian side to be studied, said Dr.Majali.

On the Jordanian-Egyptiao relations, the prime minister said that two sides agreed to resume meetings by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, noting that the next meeting is to be held in Amman, hut no date has yet

been fixed. The prime minister reported to the Cabinet on his inspection trip to Mafraq Monday, where he discussed decentralisation and granting wider powers to the governors.

He also discussed the question of cooperation among Israelis and the Palestinians to heads of local departments. ... The prime minister urged

the Cabinet members to continue their field trips in various governorates in order to have a first hand idea about problems and needs.

Hammad: Only cooperation can help Arabs face challenges

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Salameh Hammad Tuesday called for enhancing inter-Arab cooperation and revitalising institutes of common

Addressing the 11th session of the council of Arab Interior Ministers which started its meetings in Tunis Tuesday, Mr. Hammad said: "We in Jordan believe that there is no other way for facing the chal-lenges posed by the current situation, and changes resulting there from, except through inter-Arah cooperation and revitalising institutions."

Mr. Hammad said Jordan believes that the security of any Arah country is an organic extension of the national

The minister added: "The security of any Arah country is

part and parcel of the pan-Arah security, which we all should safeguard with all the means and resources available

Mr. Hammad called for formulating a pan-Arab plan of cooperation for addressing natural disasters and their destructive effects, saying that such a plan is absent from the Arah World. The plan, he said, should include clear methods for dealing with emergencies caused by disas-

He stressed that Jordan has always extended its hand for

cooperation with Arah countries with open minds and thoughts. He said that Jordan has taken hig steps on the path of democracy, which it considers as the basis for security, stability and respect for human

Symposium to tackle

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman will Monday host a three-day pan-Arah symposium on social security organised by the So-cial Security Corporation (SSC), and the Arab Labour Organisacion, with the participation of representatives of workers, employers and governments io the Arah World. In announcing the meeting

Tuesday, SSC Director Gener-

al Mohammad Saleh Al

Hourani said that the sympo-

sium will discuss a number of

social security issues

studies related to pan-Arab strategy in social security affairs, social security concepts in Islam developing systems governing social security, case studies from the Arab states and other matters.

He said that ways to promote relation to cooperation between social security organisation in the Arab World and the Geneva-based International Social Security Association will also be discussed.

Jordan, IMF finalise 1994 standby accord

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Jordan and the Internacional Monetary Fund (IMF) have finalised a standby agreement for the year 1994 as part of the economic restructuring programme the Kingdom is following since 1989, informed sources said

They said the main ondertaking in the agreement was the iotrodoction of a sales tax to replace a consumptiou tax before the end of next month and a reaffirmation of the Kingdom's moves to revamp the energy sector to make it cost-efficient. The sources said no price

increase of any commodity or fuel was envisaged in the letter of intent Jordan submitted to the IMF on the hasis of which the standby agreement was finalised. The sources could not say whether the agreement was actually signed by the finance minister.

The accord now goes before the board of governors of the IMF and, immediately after approval, clears the way for Jordan to ofpen fresh debt rescheduling talks with the Paris Club of creditor governments in Fehruary.

An IMF certification that a debtor country is following an economic restructuring programme is essendal before international creditors agree to hold debt rescheduling talks.

The IMF green signal for Jordan will also clear the way for the Kingdom to seek external financing to service its dchts, estimated to cost around \$400 million. The

financing is expected to be raised with help from the World Bank, which convened a donors conference which produced \$390 million in assistance to Jordan for the year 1993. According to the sources, apart from undertaking to introduce the sales tax, the government renewed its com-

mitment to ensuring that the

Jordan Electricity Authority

(JEA) would be self-sufficient by the year 1995. To achieve this end by improving the performance of the semi-autonomous JEA and developing the energy sector in general, the World Bank has extended an \$80 million loan supported by a matching loan from the

Japanese government.
"No other major measures are envisaged in the standby agreement other than reaffirmation of Jordan's economic targets as set out in the restructuring programme, said a source familiar with the negotiations that led to the

finalisation of the document. The source noted that Jordan bas already complied with the IMF requirements of raising fuel prices and reducing subsidies among other measures envisaged in the economic restructuring prog-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Majali receives former Lebanese premier

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday received at the Prime Ministry former Lebanese Premier Amin Al Hafez who is currently on a private visit to Jordan. Mr. Hafez was Monday received by His Majesty King

Lawzi confers with Algerian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) - Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Tuesday received at the Parliament Algerian Ambassador to Jordan Al Hashemi Al Qaddouri. The two discussed Jordanian-Algerian relations and issues of common

Tawjihi papers to be marked on Jan. 9

AMMAN (Petra) - The process of correcting and marking examination papers of the general secondary examination certificate (tawjihi) will start in Amman and Irbid next Sunday, Jan. 9, one day after the end of the examinations, an official sources at the ministry said Tuesday. The sources called on teachers participating in the process to head for the halls assigned by the ministry for this purpose despite the fact that Sunday will be a public holiday in observance of the Israa and Mi'raj anniversary. The correction halls in Amman total 13 and in Irbid 10. Some 78,901 students have registered for the examinations this year.

Jordan Times

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Democracy is about openness, not secrecy

ONE ISLAMIST deputy has described the government briefing of parliament on the peace process during two secret sessions these past two weeks as not revealing more than is being read in newspapers. The deputy was speaking iast week before the speech that His Majesty the Ling delivered on Saturday in which he revealed many of the secrets pertaining to the peace process and Arab coordination.

Jordanians might not know the details of the tolks between the Arabs and Israel in general or the latter and Jordan in particular, but they are hally aware of the positions of every party to the talks and their limitations. In fact, those who have the stamina and enthusiasm to pursue the details are continuously following the news through all sorts of media. It is therefore totally exacceptable that Jordan's 12th Parliament, into the fifth year of democracy, would chose to enhance a trend set by the previous parliament by accepting to debate the future of Jeruan in a secret session. We fail to see what is the wisdom or the logic behind holding such secret sessions. For one, deputies and ministers allike are representatives of the people and not the guardians of public affairs who have a menapoly on information and decision making. Exceey is warranted when national security is "rensened. Is this the case? We do not think so. And we do not hear that the government had told parliament so. In fact, it would be extremely healthy for the present and future of Jordan if debates like these were made open for Jordanians to realise their country's strengths and weaknesses. Secrecy will only enhance suspicion in people's minds that something is

Ferthermore, secret parliament sessions do His to strengthen democracy and make it take deep roots. Jordanians are mature enough to discuss peace and war issues as much as they are fit to discuss agriculture or the Election Law. And they have chosen their deputies to Farliament to ensure them full participation in nower and in decision making. It is, therefore, undemocratic to deny the people to take part in the debate or at least bear what goes on in it. We. therefore, hope that our honourable deputtes would in the future refuse to hold secret sassions, not only because they are undemocrafo, but also because they weaken people's belief in the deputies themselves and democracy in

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

.. DUSTOUR daily Tuesday commented on a visit to Jordan it; Amr Musa, the Egyptian foreign minister, who carried a ministing to His Majesty King Hussein from President Mubar-in about the coordination of efforts for peace. It is a fact that drive and Amman are coordinating their efforts with the other notices involved in the peace process and therefore coordinaion of steps and stands is a must at this stage and before the comption of the peace negotiations with Israel, said the duty. Constant consultations between the two leaders have from going on towards reaching an acceptable formula that would ensure a durable peace in our region, added the paper. It said that Jordan and Egypt have a pivotal role to play in the place process and are indeed pursuing efforts since the Madrid transe to make the peace endeavours succeed. Therefore, the can only regard Egypt's participation in this joint with to close the gap which is still separating the For the end the Arab and Palestinian sides. Egypt, said the paper, is also clearly trying to open channels of dialogue there the Arab states with the hopes of attaining the

minimum degree of solidarity in the face of the critical stage

and the deadlocked negotiations with Israel. A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily tackled agricultural problems in an open letter to the prime minister. Since 1986, and inchammad Masalha, the agricultural sector in Jordan has host facing accumulating difficulties especially in the Jordan which produces most of Jordan's feed. But over the pears successive governments of Jordan promised a lot and a world a little because the country lacks a clear agricultural mire . he said. Every year, governments dealt with the nema hural sector's crisis, but never had these governments that a clear and permanent policy to deal with any of the Martin 1802s, said the writer. The result was that the farmers 15 to 11 try a heavy burden of debts and were unable to pay the interest or the principal, added the writer. The actions are facing the problem of paying higher prices for litting requirements and equipment and find themselves public to settle their dues to the money-lending institutions, Massaha. The writer appealed to the prime minister to consect field trip to the farms and meet with representatives

of farmer order to hear their views and their grievances and remove of the standing in the way of increased production

and anothering.

The press and U.S. politics for 1993-1994

By Dr. James Zogby

FOR THE past two weeks I reviewed President Bill Clinton's legislative successes during the past year and the challenges he faces as he prepares to introduce much-needed but controversial legislation to Congress in 1994.

Not only will the president be proposing legislation this year on health care, welfare reform and an anti-crime package, but all members of Congress and one-third of the Senate will be running for reelec-tion. The very fact of the upcoming elections, as much as the substantive issues involved in the legislative proposals, will complicate Clinton's work in

Given this tangled web of politics, what are likely to emerge as the issues in the 1994 Congressional elections? Before answering that ques-tion, it is necessary to set the

stage.
Democrats are extremely worried for three reasons. First, the president's party traditionally loses Congressional seats during these mid-term elections (that is, elections that take place in the years when there is no presidential election); and because they have the majority of senators up for reelection, many of whom are quite vulnerable to defeat, Democrats are concerned that they may lose control of the upper chamber. Second, there are still many Democrats in the House of Representatives whose seats are at risk due to the 1990 redistricting which put them in Republican-leaning districts. Yet those are rather traditional problems, while the third reason is not.

Close cooperation between the White House and the Democratic National Committee (DNC) helped Mr. Clinton win several of bis early victories, and was important in countering Ross Perot's advertising blitz against NAFTA. But the primary purpose of the DNC is to provide national-help to local Democratic candidates across the country, and during the past year the DNC spent relatively little time or money on local elections. This will change in 1994, but the normal election-year activities of the party are getting off to a

Many argue lack sufficient help from the DNC was a tor in the spate of Democratic losses that began with the Senate run-off in Georgia in December of 1992 and ended with the Republican victories in the New York Mayoral and New Jersey and Virginia governor's contests last November. In between were numerous special elections for seats in state legislatures, where Republicans also won most of the races. Critics of the DNC's tactics argue that you can't govern if you win legislative battles while losing election

after election. But the picture is not all bleak — there is a silver lining for the Democrats. By year's

end the president's approval ratings were at their highest level in months, and he is pulling public attitudes towards the Democratic party along with him. By getting his legislation passed, and through a subtle but skillful handling of the press, Mr. Clinton has so far positioned his party well for the 1994 elections.

For example, recent polls show that the three most important issues in the minds of voters are the state of the economy and the need to create more jobs, combatting crime and drug problems, and reforming the health care system. Voters thought by a margin of 49 per cent to 32 per cent that the Democratic Party would do a better job than the Republican Party and by an overwhelming margin of 61 per cent to 18 per cent voters felt that the Democrats would do a better job than Republicans at reforming the health care sys-

Even on the issue of combating crime and drugs, on which the Democrats bave traditionally been vulnerable, 35 per cent of voters feel that they would do a better job of bringing the situation under control, compared to 43 per cent for the Republicans. Although the Republicans fare better in this poll, it is close enough that it shouldn't hurt the Democrats io the 1994 elections, since most people don't think the federal government can do much to combat crime and so don't base their votes on that factor unless it is overwhelm-

So it unsurprising to note that 55 per cent of the voters see Mr. Clinton as a different kind of Democrat, and that 67 per cent see the democratic party as changing. This last number is important since it might help Democrats hold off anti-incumbent fervour better than if they were viewed as "the same old Democratic party," as Republican challengers will undoubtedly try to paint them. And though it required significant effort, it was the highly ambitious and successful legislative agenda of the president that is primarily responsi-

ble for his good year-end poll-

ing numbers. Though the president began 1993 with a rocky start, allowing the press to distort this issues agenda (by emphasising gays in the military. Zoe Baird and other failed appointments), Mr. Clinton's aggressive legislative agenda allowed him to control the debate for the remainder of the year. By holding news conference after news conference in which the main item was a piece of his legislative package, and through a carefully planned media strategy that focused on

all the things the administrarion was proposing and doing, the Clinton team left the press with very little time to write its own stories and set its own agenda. It is a little appreciated fact in Washington even now, but it seems clear that the president's rigorous schedule helped to give his party a boost going into 1994.

But there is an important caveat to all of this: in three weeks time Mr. Clinton could be in the depths of a slump and his ratings could be only half as good as they are now. In fact, in the last two weeks of the year and in the beginning of the new one, there is a sus-tained attack on Mr. Clinton's popularity. He is being accused once again by Republican sources of extramarital affairs

and of questionable financial dealings while he was governor of Arkansas. Why have these very old stories resurfaced and why is the press covering them again? The reason for this is partially that with Congress out of town and the news cycle slow the president is having a more difficult time setting the agenda, but a more important factor is the way the press covers politics - especially the

Some will recall that the press had buried Mr. Clinton before he was even inaugurated, only to give him excel-lent marks for his inauguration address, then bury him again over several flaps involving problems with his political appointments, then resurrecting him again after his success on the budget bill before damning him once more over foreign policy problems.

And all this, of course, was

after candidate Clinton was buried going into the nation's first primary in New Hamp-shire only to be pronounced the "eomeback kid" after finishing second in a primary he was once expected to win, and then buried by the press a few more times during the primaries and again during the general campaign.

What is the explanation for this? Can it be that Mr. Clinton is some kind of genie who can never be permanently held down in the polls - is there nothing he couldn't come back from? Perhaps, but it is more likely a combination of public cynicism, press cynicism, and the fact that no one's political memory seems to be much longer than three weeks.

There is a familiar argument that after the Vietnam war and the scandal of Watergate, and numerous scandals large and small since then, that the voting public has been increasing cynical about politics. This may explain to a large degree why voter turnout has been so low the past twenty years; and it may also help explain the cynicism of the press, since, as one White House officially recently noted that "the press tends to fall into patterns that tend to follow, rather than create, public opinion or public fashion. It is well-known that we live in a cynical time and the press plays to that cynic-

But political analyst Thomas Patterson argues that the press, and not only the polin-cians, has created the elimate in which public eynicism flourishes. In a study he conducted over the last thirty-five years, Patterson points out that in the 1960's less than onethird of the media's evaluations of political leaders were unfavourable. By the 1980's fully two-thirds of the media's comments about political leaders were negative. His study seems to show that the media's shift toward negative coverage began before the Vietnam war. and that the war and Watergate simply accelerated a trend already underway.

White House officials generally acknowledge that they rely on the media to get the administration's message out, but that they worry about how the press will "spin" the story. In an interview with The White House Bulletin, one White House official put it this way: "The president is rarely able to speak to the American people directly and has to rely instead on passing his comments through the media filter. As a consequence, how the press is going to react to stories and strategising about the best way to get a story out goes on all the time.

Administration officials also pointed out to the Bulletin that, while the majority of reports get their facts right, none are able to consistently explain events correctly. As one offi-cial put it, "when they report on what they saw or heard, they usually get it right. But as soon as they try to explain what it meant or what we were attempting to accomplish, they fall into the quicksand called Washington journalism'." And, as Mr. Patterson notes in his study, the majority of press stories written today are interpretive and not simple report-

By focusing on a "story of the day" an with two-thirds of their comments being critical, it is easy to see why someone buried as often as Bill Clinton can come back just as often. People can only hear so many negative stories about a single subject before the stories cease to have an impact. So while the press is busy making this or that judgement, it does not resonate deeply with anyone in the media audience. The other side of the argu-

ment, of course, is that positive storie, are forgotten just as quickty. So although Mr. Clioton has achieved more in his first year than any president in almost forty years, very few Americans recall many of his victories. The same phe-nomenon explains how George Bush sank from a 90 per cent approval rating in 1990 to 39 per cent of the vote in 1992. And with all the information

available, it gets harder for any story, positive or negative, to get through, A study noted that it is almost twice as hard to reach voters through the media now than it was just ten years ago. And so it is that with the news cycle slow, the media turned to negative stories from the past. Although the White House seems to have gotten a little bit off the defensive, the president's popularity will probably not begin to rise again until the days just before his State of the Unfon-Address, when the press will again turn its focus to issues of policy and substance.

But even when the news cycle begins to shift his way, the president will not be able to rest on his achievements and he knows it. With health care and welfare reform and an anti-crime package to be followed by mid-term elections in which his party will lose seats, Mr. Clinton has a full plate in 1994. And of course, there is the matter of foreign policy and continuing crises in Bosnia, Haiti, and Somalia where American soldiers will have spent their second consecutive

New Year. American politics is never dull, and Mr. Clinton's aggressive agenda has made it even more interesting. In all likeli-hood, 1994 will be an even more eventful year than was



Croatia concerned over Muslim gains in Bosnia

By Dan De Luce

ZAGREB - Croatia's recent threats of possible military intervention in Bosnia reflect a growing concern in the government over Muslim advances on the battlefield, political com-mentators and military analysts

But the tough talk from Zag-reb probably represents more propaganda than serious intention as a major army action in Bosnia would carry tremendous risks for Croatia, including possible economic sanctions by the United Nations, they said.
"It would be fatal for

Croatia." said Fran Visnar, a Croatian military analyst. "It would bring about the implementation of sanctions."

However, officials in Zagret said on Monday Croatian and Bosnian leaders would hold peace talks in Vienna on Tuesday to discuss territorial disputes as well as humanitarian

Croanian Foreign Minister Mate Granic will meet Haris Silajdzie, prime minister of the Muslim-led Bosnian government, a spokesman for the foreign minister said.

Croatia's army commander and defence minister said last week the country might intervene directly in central Bosnia. and President Franjo Tudjman hinted the same in a television interview.

The sabre-rattling coincided with steady drumbeat in the state media about Bosnian Muslim forces, often described as "fundamentalists" and "mujahedeen", attacking Croats and committing alleged atrocities in the central Lasva

Croatian officials have been conducting a war of words with Muslim leaders over which ethnic group represents the real victums of Bosnia's war. said Zarko Puhovski, a political commentator. There has been a decline in anti-Serb propaganda, the theme is anti-

Muslim now." he said. Foreign Minister Granic has called attention to the worsening conditions in the Croat enclave, and has appealed to the U.N. to declare the enclave a demilitarised safe baven similar to those created for Muslims in eastern Bosnia.

Forming safe areas would limit the Muslim offensive in the Croat-populated Lasva Valley without requiring a fresh military commitment. commentators said. But the U.N. lacks enough troops to enforce the safe havens already in existence.

Officials from the mostly Muslim Bosnian government delivered their own threats to Croats over the weekend. saying the Bosnian army would push for control of the Lasva Valley area around Vitez in

Military analysts say the Bosnian army holds a distinct advantage over the encircled Croats in central Bosnia, with superior manpower, morale and organisation.

U.N. military sources and diplomats have said that Croatia has armed and steered the Bosnian Croat Defence Council (HVO), which has suffered setbacks in central Bosnia against its former Muslim

A British lesson on boundaries

By Chaim Herzog

THERE IS a natural tendency just now to compare the pence talks between us and the Palestinians and the new agreement between Britain and the Irish Republic. But this is dangerous, since the circumstances and background in each case are totally

The conflict in Ireland. which has gone on for almost 400 years, is based on the struggle between the Irish. who are Catholic, and the Protestant British settlers whn currently constitute a majority in the north. No other conflict in the world, including ours, is characterised by such deep.

uncompromising hatred. The Irish Republican Army is active not only in the north, but also in London and other British cities, unleashing terror to advance its political posi-tions. This blood-soaked struggle has cost some 3,000 lives in

And yet, despite the deep difference between that conflict and ours, it is possible to draw some interesting and significant analogies.

First, it should be recalled that in Ireland, the historic 1922 peace agreement brought neither calm nor resolution of the conflict. On the contrary, the signing of that agreement and the establishment of the Irish Republic were fullowed by a hloody civil war.

The cruel killings in the 1920s are engraved upon my childhood memories and remain among the first impressions in my life.

In our case, too, we can

expect the historic agreement with the PLD to be followed clashes and terrorism. The powder keg still bolds enough explosives, and there are enough elements around

wishing to ignite the fuse.

During the entire period of the conflict in Ireland, the Britsh have refused to enter into negotiations with the Irish extremists; to this very day, there is a ban on leaders of the Irish underground appearing in the official British media. have been following this

tenacious British stand with interest. What impresses me, perhaps more than anything else, is the British government's recently proclaimed condition that if even a single IRA bullet is fired in a threemonth period, there will be no

The British are trying to show who controls the area before estering into negotia-tions, and they are trying to impose a cessirion of terrorism on the other side as a basis for

We can learn snmething from the British negotiating moves. The current crisis in our talks with the PLO again reveals the shortcomings of the Declaration of Principles. which left substantive issues ntucky.

There is talk of a policy of vagueness. But I think that policy has not proven justified in our case. The vagueness has been too extensive, particularly around the most substantive

For here we are, just three months after the signing of the declaration, discovering that the two leaders are far apart in their views of what the agreement is supposed to achieve. The issue of international

border crossings is not merely a symbolie matter, but nne of principle, and the prime minister should be encouraged in his firm stand. With hindsight, it isn't clear why the vague wording of the clause about Israel's responsibility for external security was not supplemented by a sentence spelling out the question of border crossings.

Israel has both security and olitical reasons — and enpolitical reasons dorsement in the Declaration of Principles - to insist on retaining control of border

It is important for us to supervise incuming and outgoing traffic, certainly in the delicate, fateful phase we are approaching after the signature of the Gaza-Jericho deal, and important that we make a firm distinction between the interim stages and the permanent set-

Yasser Arafat is striving to introduce, even at this early stage, the attributes of political sovereignty for the Palestinian authority to arise in the territories. It is crucial that we make it clear to him that we are nut discussing the estab-lishment of a state now.

The reason we must not concede this point is because we are dealing with the substance of the agreement. If we give way, we shall harm the substance of the entire process. The

moment the PLO gets control of border crossings will be the moment we give up part of our sovereignty and the concept we held to when we entered the peace process. (And all this before the PLO has even proved its ability to wield con-

if we do not respect our own stands along the way, we can hardly expect Arafat to do so.

trol in the area!)

The PLO leader is under heavy pressure: of that there is no doubt at all. He is being assailed from the territories. and by elements close to bim in the leadership, Andthe international community, at least the Americans, does not appear to be hacking his stubborn stand. If he persists, he could damage his international standing.

Ultimately. Arafat has no alternative to the process be has entered - and he will want to find a solution before bilateral talks are renewed with Syria and Jordan in Washington in January. Their imminence is pressing him even more, a situation that should he exploited to the hilt.

With all our desire not to waste time or weaken our interlocutor, it must be made plain to Arafat that in matters of principle such as border crossings, the Israeli government reflects a national consensus and cannot allow itself to retreat in the face of his pressure.

The writer was Israel's sixth president. This urticle is reprinted from the Jerusalem

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high flyers who overestimated their business acumen.

Most fraud cases are unre-

solved, either for want of evi-

dence - they are notoriously

complex, and their often inter-

national character makes them

even more so - or for want of

money: the lengthy judicial process is extremely costly and must usually be paid for out of

scarce public funds. Fraud has reached epidemic

nance, securities and indeed,

Rabat summit because we support our brothers who had hosen this course.

We implore God to help them in preserving their credibility in what they have committed themselves.

What concerns us at this. short period of time is to reach a joint vision with regard to all important issues and we hope each side would remain committed.

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Vacuum.

We are always committed. . I had set Tuesday for the meeting with the Palestinian leadership but it seems it could be Wednesday or Thursday. But if there is no sincerity and no genuine interest in coopera-tion to serve the people, I do not believe we can wait for

We realise the heavy burden on the Palestinian leadership at this stage but it had chosen to a carry this responsibility and we hope it would reach the level where we can continue to support it at all levels.

We look forward towards a responsible body representative of the people, backed by tremendous manpower, and

enjoying credibility, so that we can go along the road together.

I have also spoken about coordination with Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, and we have proven our commitment to work together. No one should believe that we will go it alone in this regard.

Never have we compromised any iota of the Palestinian soil nor any right of the Palestinian people. We have been committed all along in support of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people.

Let us hope we will reach a comprehensive peace with the help of all parties.

We are not ready to sign a peace treaty unless all the problems are solved in a satisfactory manner and on all tracks and balanced with regard to us and the Israelis. Then we will have peace at the end and will mark the beginning of a new era where all will live in peace and security.

Then the doors will be open to progress. We will concent our effort on the issue of land and water and people's rights in the talks and all the other items of the common agenda which we had

No curbs on credit for exports

endorsed.

(Continued from page 1)

However, hankers said the additional credit came too late for the market to utilise it since the financial year was drawing to a close.

The ceiling is set as a percentage of the gross domestic product for the previous

The government has been trying to exclude credits extended for industrial investment from the ceiling, arguing that such investment had contributed to economic growth and would be reflected in terms of increase in the gross domestic product.

But the IMF argued that it was too early for such an exemption since Jordan was m the early stages of implementing the economic restructuring programme.

It was likely that the IMF would respond positively to the Jordanian request at a later stage in the second phase (1993-98) of the restructuring programme.

Israel expands Golan colony

(Continued from page 1)

Golan offers of say when they were made, but the revelation was significant because it indicated the negotiating process with Isreal has repeatedly reached the point of offers

being made and turned down....
The only official forum for talks hetween Israel and Syria has been the peace talks in Washington, part of the U.S.backed peace process launched in Madrid two years ago. Those have been stalled for

Syria steadfastly has denied a series of reports that it recently held secret talks with Israel, and expressed irritation after the Palestinians reached a deal with the Jewish state that followed months of secret

Addressing the 21st conference of the general assembly of the Federation of Arab News Agencies, Mr. Khaddam said.
"Syria has rejected many attempts to reach a solution on

deeply believes in the comprehensiveness of any solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and is also convinced that unilateral and partial solutions could not bring about just and peaceful "solutions."

He reiterated that Syria demanded "full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories."

"There will never be a disgraceful peace, nor will there be a peace that does not guarantee our full rights... a peace of which we will, together with our coming generations, be proud no matter how crucial the circumstances might be," he said.

Asked about his views on the forthcoming Clinton-Assad summit, Mr. Khaddam said 'we hope that serious steps might be carried out on the road to a just peace that may lead to a full Israeli withdrawal

from all occupied Arah lands." "We expect positive results and we have to work to reach these results," he added.

Rabin optimistic of talks

(Continued from page 1)

the Golan Heights because it

Mr. Kaddoumi repeated there was "no document of understanding drawn up during the talks, contrary to what Mr. Peres announced at the time. "Ideas were proposed vand submitted for discussion," he said

However, Mr. Musa said that the "picture is not that hleak" and that the PLO-Israeli negotiations could resume soon.

Mr. Peres blamed PLO infighting for the problems in negotiations and warned that Israel was "not waiting breathlessly" to carry out the Palestinian antonomy plan.

Dr. Shaath was quoted by the Israeli daily Haaretz as saying he was ready to resume negotiations "tomorrow morning," and accused Israel of attaching conditions.

Mr. Peres also suggested fending in the Palestinian camp was the reason that Israel could not pin down an agreement with the PLO and said that setting aside understandings Israel says were reached in Cairo would "create a

"Yon cannot cancel an agreement, create a vacuum and say let's go take a walk through a vacuum," Mr. Peres

Dr. Shaath charged that Mr. Peres had created the misunderstanding over the Cairo talks by dictating and then amending drafts of agreements reached without PLO

approval.
"When we objected to several things he dictated before our very eyes, Peres said, forget it. These are just principles, tomorrow we'll draw up a more exact draft'," Dr. Shaath

He added that the next day Peres came up with a draft "completely different from what he dictated," in Cairo. Dr. Shaath said that was why he faxed his own amended version to Israel, which Mr. Rabin did accept.

Mr. Rabin Tuesday confirmed that Israel was studying the Palestinian position on the document.

"It is natural that each side will try to obtain the maximum during negotiations," he said. "We shall certainly find a way to overcome these obstacles."

But he added: "If the Palestinians believe that they are not committed by this text, then we are not committed by it either."

Mr. Kaddoumi said "it's up to Israel to make concessions, we have no more concessions left to make."

Settlers move into school

(Continued from page 1)

then killed by two Palestinians disguided as religious Jews near an Israeli settlement south of Khan Yunes on Oct.

The army is still hunting a second suspect.

A booby-trap exploded in-

juring two Israeli soldiers overnight at an army firing range near Tel Aviv, military officials the carnage. Traffic police. government representatives, mayors, members of automobile clubs and

One of the men was in a serious condition after the hlast, the officials added.

Few restraints on white collair crime

By Justin Keay

LONDON - Even within the husiness community, it has become fashionable to decry the excesses of the 1980s. The "yuppie," its archetypally hrash yet dumh representative is now almost an extinct species, while the unrestrained, free market go-get-'em ethos has given way to something more considered and thought-ful. As Europe and North America struggle with the han-gover — most notably, the most serious recession since the 1930s, record numbers of commercial and personal bankruptcies and a consequent evaporation of consumer confidence - the Reagan/Thatcher boom already seems to belong to another lifetime.

For many people, however, the legacy of the "decade of will be with them for many years to come. Indeed, for the really unlucky on both sides of the Atlantic it will

follow them to their graves. The truth is that the 1980s was not just the decade of greed: It was the era when gross, large-scale fraud became almost commonplace, facilitated by the explosive growth in cross-border trading and computerisation, leaving hundreds of thousands of depositors, pensioners, shareholders and workers much the poorer. With money tight in the 1990s, many are calling in their investments or other financial commitments and finding that promises made back in the 1980s are often worse than empty. For the whizzkids who wheeled and dealed their way through hillions of dollars. money had become something almost ephemeral; for many of the smaller investors and others to whom it belonged, and who had worked hard to earn it, it was their only hope of a decent retirement or

Three years into the 1990s, in the U.K. alone, there are a record number of frand cases on police files. They read like a litany of the hopes and ultimate failure of the decade; Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), Asil Nadir's Polly Peck, Brent-Wal-ker, Maxwell...to name just the most famous. Other countries have been host to similar large-scale cosmopolitan crookery: the U.S.'s Donald Trump and Australia's Alan Bond and Christopher Skase are further Anglo-Saxon exam-ples. Many were just plain crooks; others, jumped-np often stymied in their attempts to uncover essential information or extradite key witnesses by the different rules that may prevail in other countries, as has happened most visibly with Asil Nadir of Polly Peck in Northern Cyprus, a country which Britain does not even recognise, diplomatically. Even when cooperation on fraud issues is guaranteed by a second or third country, it is often given low priority: With limited resources and increases in all kinds of criminality,

proportions and yet the system of controlling and policing, and ultimately catching the frauds-ters, is hopelessly inefficient. The internationalisation of fisomething to be looked at dur-ing the lunch hour. Tony MacStravick was decorporate activity has in no way been matched by an internationalisation in fraud detection. Interpol, the international organisation hased in Lyon (France) that pools police information from all over the world, has a poor record on fraud: Most of its limited resources have been devoted to solving violent or drug-related crime, while many of its mem-bers — including the U.S. and Britain - have been wary of sharing sensitive information with less than savory govern-ments which are members of National governments are

national police forces see non-violent "white collar crime" as

tective chief superintendent for the Company Fraud Depart-ment of London's Metropolitan Police, and is now assigned to Kroll Associates, the international corporate investigators. He believes Britain is currently experiencing an explosion in fraud, yet the authorities remain hopelessly confused and uncertain about how to cope with it. Little is being done despite growing public awareness of the problem and outrage against highflying crooks who seem apparently immune from successful prosecution.

"The increasingly complex arid international nature of rge-scale fraud makes proper detection almost impossible." he: says, pointing out that cer-tain existing legislation actually makes matters worse. "Client confidentiality and banking secrecy, as it exists in some countries, works against trac-ing allegedly defrauded

Mr. MacStravick points out

nat development in Britain

during the 1980s actually made

the position of those fighting fraud weaker, as numerous pe:wly-established self-regulato ry bodies struggled to estabhis h goal-posts of legality and ill egality. Many of these remain, in effect, powerless, iner easing pressure for a tightening of their powers. September, for example, saw a major shake-up take place in Britain's Securities and Invest-ment Board (SIB), the so-called watchdog for the City of London, with more resources being channeled to its supervisdary, enforcement and legal

Mr. MacStravick emphasises thiat under Britain's arcane, precedent-driven legal system there isn't even a legal defini-

TE DESCRIPTION OF

THE PARTED STATES OF

to try the accused with a dazzling: a rray of crimes, including "crimi nal wrongdoing" and "inten tion to defraud." The 1987 Criminal Justice Act created a framework for the inves-

tion of fraud: Courts attempt

ngatic in and prosecution of frand, and established a unified body which would supervise cases involving more than £5 million n (\$7.5 million) — the Serior is Fraud Office (SFO). The S FO has since acquired a reput ation for moving with 'glac ial slowness" and for burigl ing a succession of cases, most notably that of Asil Nadir who managed to skip record hail c of £3.5 million (\$5.25 million). chartering an aircraft to

his n ative country.

Ba nkrupt in Britain, Mr. Nadi r. still has large investmen is abroad which are out of the reach of British investigatoirs and the creditors who inverst ed in the textile-to-foods group Polly Peck.

C rincs point out that during six-year history, the SFO has only bought one case to a suo tessful close - Guinness: Eve in there, the principal moti-vat or behind the group's illegal acquisition of Distillers — forme r managing director Ernest Sax inders — is free after serving only part of his original sentence, on the grounds of

ill-health. There is increasing recognition that getting a conviction, and after that achieving a sentence that reflects the seriousness of the crime, is something of a lottery. There is a very rea danger here: Laws that cannot be properly enforced, or which result in puny sentences after months of preparation and public expense bring the entire system of criminal justice into disrepute, which has farreaching and disturbing implications.

"The truth is that even successful prosecutions do not result in particularly severe sentences for the fraudsters," says
Mr. MacStravick, pointing out
that the ten-year sentence passed to Barlow Clowes and the
six years to the directors of
Dunsdale Securities (two major recent fraud cases in the U.K.) were exceptionally high.
"With this in mind, the prosecution should he less ambitious and try and get a conviction on at least some of the counts against the accused. rather than wasting time in building a case that incorpo-rates the full magnitude of the

This argument would appear to have logic on its side. Mr. Nadir, for example, currently faces some 59 charges, involving "theft" of in excess of £155 million. It will take months if nation. It will take months if not years to unravel all the strands of Polly Peck and secure a reasonably strong case for the prosecution. Why not instead hone in on certain more easily provable (if smaller) counts that are more case. ler) counts, that are more com-prehensible to the jury and go for a quick conviction? .

Mr. MacStravik also feels the criminal justice system needs a number of amendments, including a time limit on the hringing of fraud cases - for example up to four months rather than years, as is now often the case. He is also adamant that there has to be more international cooperation on fraud issues, which would include agreement on just what does constitute wrongdoing.

"It sounds obvious to say it, hut governments everywhere must recognise that fraud is a crime, just like any other crime, and that people get affected and hurt by it," says Mr. MacStravick. "For the sake of the victims and to deter future fraudsters, justice must be seen to be done" - World News Link.

Sorting out the 'library' of genes

The 1980s - the so-called decade of greed - spawned an epiderraic of fraud and white collar crime (WNL photo)

By Barry James

EVRY, France - Imagine that you have to arrange thousands of weighty tomes in a library. Neither the books nor the chapters are labeled. The pages - there are several hundred to each volume - are jumbled up and are not numbered. And the text is written in a language you don't quite understand, using no more than four letters of the ainhabet.

The only thing you know for certain is that the library has 23 rooms of varying size, and each room has two identical sets of. shelves. Now arrange the books in

the correct order. A team of French scientists researching the human genetic blueprint known as the genome has in effect succeeded in doing just that. Daniel Cohen, Jean Weissenhach and Ilya M. Chumakov - all members of the Genethon research laboratory here - have man-

aged, figuratively, to place the

books in order on the shelves,

put the chapters in sequence

and work out many of the page

Their "first generation physical map of the human genome" is being hailed as a stunning scientific achievement that will provide researchers a valuable tool in hunting the genes responsible for more than 3,000 known hereditary diseases.

4: 144:45H.2.

The map gives a broad but still imprecise and scantily detailed overview of about 90 per cent of the genome, compared to the two per cent that had been mapped before.

The achievement fulfills Genethon's aim of completing the map in three years. The laboratory was established in 1990 by the French muscular dystrophy association, with money from an annual series of televised fund-raisers. The latest telethon raised more than 350 million francs (\$60 million) in cash and pledges in what has become one of France's most popular national

In keeping with its philosophy that genetic information should not be patented. Genethon immediately made the map available over the Internet scientific network and

will publish its findings in a 300-page book early next year. The library represents the genome, a 32.5 billion charac-

ter "text" written in linear fashion along a I.5 metre wisp of deoxyribonucleic acid or DNA, one thousand times thinner than a filament of silk. The DNA, arranged in the famous double helix, is coiled up in a space one thousand times smaller than a pinhead in the heart of each buman cell.

Each room in the library represents one of 23 pairs of chromosomes, one from the father and one from the mother. The books represent the more than 30,000 slices of DNA material that the Genethon team multiplied and analysed with the help of sophisticated robots and powerful computers. The chapter headings are genetic "markers," or known information points within the DNA fragments. Finding a marker is something like searching for an unusual word in a huge computer data base.

The chemical "language" of the DNA text is translated into various combinations of four letters, for example, ICGACGTTCAT-GAGC-TCATGCTA, arranged in an endless, hypnotic rune. Every few thousand characters, the text resolves into clusters of information known as genes, the instructions that tell eyes to be blue or hair to be curly. But sometimes, the book of life contains a spelling mistake that can translate into a fearsome handicap like muscular dys-

Knowledge of the book in the wrong hands could be a frightening method of social control. Only two weeks ago, for example, China said it would use eugenics to "avoid new births of inferior quality and heighten the standards of the whole population."

"We think a lot about the ethical problems, a huge said Susan Cure, a scientist at Genethon. "But what the people in the muscular dystrophy association want is to find the disease genes as quickly as possible because they have children who might benefit."

The map combines for the

first time a genetic map de-vised by Dr. Weissenbach containing more than 2,000 known markers, and a physical map created by Dr. Cohen, which clescribes the way the DNA fragments are arranged along their filament. Dr. Chumakov yvas responsible for the techriical wizardry that enabled the wast mass of data to be integrated.

DOSTARS.

It means that scientists can now place several hundred known genes with some precision on their respective chromosomes. In the future. the many tens of thousands of genes that still have to be deciphered will find their place on the map. The addition of more markers - the target is 5,000 — will enable gene hunters to concentrate their search in the right place in the library.

It took six years to find the gene that took the life of the son of Bernard Barataud, the energetic go-for-broke president of the muscular dystrophy association, and at that rate it would take forever to locate every aberrant gene. The mapwill make it easier and much

quicker to locate such killers in the future. If a disease is associated with a known marker, for example, researchers will know in which chapter or page to look for it. In theory, it should be possible to splice over the segment of DNA containing the faulty gene, just as you can patch an error in a computer programme.

The map is analogous to the rudimentary chart that Columbus took to the New World. It indicates roughly where genes are, without saying what they do. But as more markers are added and more genes are identified, it will become increasingly precise. Dr. Cohen predicts that within 15 years, it will be as detailed as today's satellite maps of the earth.

The Genethon team has achieved a breakthrough that had not been expected until 1995 under the vast Human Genome Project, led by the United States, which aims to describe the entire genome, chromosome by chromosome and gene hy gene, early in the next century - International

Friday night until Wednesday.

but for Mr. Munoz it is still far

too high a price to pay.

speed.

This was 19 less than in 1992

Many of the deaths are the

alcohol, youth and a thirst for .

result of a fatal combination of

Spain bids to curb carnage on the roads

By Clar Ni Chonghaile Reuter

MADRID — Every Monday morning, Spain wakes up to a grim body count as the cost of another fun-filled weekend is counted in lives lost on the

roads. The death toll is as much a part of news bulletins as the soccer report. Graphic pictures of twisted and charred wrecks fill the newspapers, mure testimony to the devastating consequences of a lethal cocktail of youth, alcohol and speed.

But some politicians and husinessmen have decided. enough is enough and have united in a bid to put a stop to.

driving school instructors are just some of the people who have signed a pact aimed at elevating road safety to the top of their list of priorities.

Behind the initiative is Director-General of Traffic Miguel Munoz Medina, who says Spaniards are becoming more aware about road safety.

"There comes a moment when it is time to say enough," says Mr. Munoz, the official in charge of drafting traffic laws and regulations. "We are experiencing a moment of extreme public sensibility about road accidents." The number killed on the

cline in the death toll.

roads remains amongst the highest in Europe, with some doubt if this is true." 6.000 deaths in 1992. However, 1993 should be the fourth consecutive year 10 see a de-

culture.

"This is not satisfactory hut, it is a sign of hope," Mr. Munoz said. He claims Spain is on a par with other European countries with a similiar car-

"I don't think we are much different from other countries. as far as deaths per million go. We are around the level of France and Belgium although way ahead of the United Kingdom which has about half as: many deaths as us," he said. He dismissed the traditional

drivers. "I don't think Spaniards are the worst drivers. Yes, people accuse them of being very unicooperative and difficult but I

stereotype of Spaniards as had

On the wide tree-lined streets of Madrid, it's all too easy to believe in the:

stereotypes. Cars screech to a halt at pedestrian crossings and drivers tap their steering wheels impatiently as pedestrians

scramble across, casting an-xious glances left and right. Once the lights change, the cars are off, roaring down the houlevards like race horses bursting from their stalls.

An aggressive advertising campaign has been launched hy the traffic authorities in a hid to change such attitudes and it pulls no punches in hammening home the grisly con-

sequences of recklessness. We were worried about it at first. We did nor want to offend the Spanish people ...just to let them know the consequences of imprudence,"

Mr. Munoz said. Even in Madrid's record shops, the thumping music is interrupted every so often with a warning to young customers to dilute their weekend pleasure with prudence on the

Young men are most likely to end up in the twisted and crushed wrecks. Car accidents are the biggest killer in the 18 to 25 years age group. Mr. Munoz said.

In 1992, 6,014 people died on Spanish roads and motorways according to Interior Ministry statistics. Of those nearly 28 per cent were men aged between 25 and 44.

Despite increased awareness, the slaughter goes on. At the beginning of December. 80 people were killed in road accidents during a long weekend which stretched in

true Spanish tradition from

"Alcohol plays a part in a third of the accidents and though it is difficult to prove, it is believed to be responsible for one out of two road deaths," said Mr. Munoz. He is sceptical about a new

ing and driving, devised by police in the northern region of Catalonia. Police are offering free

scheme to cut down on drink-

breathalyser tests outside hars and clubs in a hid to awaken partygoers to the danger of driving when over the limit.

Activity slowed during last five months

Volume of trading at the Amman Financial Market slightly short of one billion mark

By Samir Shafiq Special to the Jordan Times

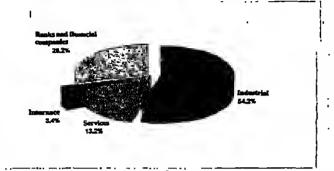
AMMAN - Total trading at the secondary and parallel markets of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) rocketed beyond the 1992 record of JD 887 million by 9.2 per cent and coded 1993 at JD 969 million, AFM Director General Umayya Toukan told a press

conference Tuesday.
Dr. Toukan said 75.8 per cent of the 1993 total was achieved in the first sev en months of the year as trading slowed in the later months d ue to political developmen ts which ushered a "wait as not see" period from August un til

The AFM general price i ndex closed last year at 158 .5 points, 22 per cent above ti re close at the end of 199 2. although the index hit 181 .6 points on July 7, 1993.

The volume of shares issue d at the primary market was als o

Sectoral distribution of the trading volume



Trading at the secondary market

Transfers exempted						
Total	from trading	Stocks	Shares	Period		
9,671,891	4,056,000		5,615,881	1974		
20,488,097	3,848,640	776,289	15,843,190	1979		
49,840,904	6,746,813	1,661,015	47,431,076	1900		
84,311,218	6,910,746	2,324,445	75,417,027	1961		
139,796,345	0,585,110	1,942,272	126,266,963	1982		
156,515,066	13,461,071	007,006	141,427,111	1963		
66,305,646	8,302,526	1,678,497	58,326,623	1984		
84,764,120	14,425,344	3,807,914	64,730,872	1945		
96,134,243	26,000,676	2,530,574	00,522,901	1986		
167,207,733	17,982,136	1,047,321	148,178,278	1987		
171,476,465	22,194,279	16,856,964	132,625,222	1988		
554,624,660	164,865,777	22,175,363	367,583,740	1984		
200,815,340	17,404,353	3,121,014	268,685,973	1990		
320,267,596	16,001,995	1,448,674	302,836,729	1991		
906,527,608	15,254,053	4,316,726	886,951,729	1992		
68,400,793	029,000	753,636	67,018,148	Y-1		
49,506,436		312,235	44,734,731	Februar		
01,902,189	1,140,540	1,240,780	59,511,990	14-4		
125,361,247	2,281,161	402,103	124,727,963	`A=4		
90,171,037	1,757,797	363,509	57,049,725	14-7		
44,279,328	1,065,230	304,310	42,900,786	<u> </u>		
32,966,172	1,810,072	107,403	31,048,097	ya.e.		
50,156,671	1,262,530	140,958	55,753,163	A-g-1		
97,227,024	964,186	100,991	294,120,08	September		
71,103,757	2,233,585	461,279	68,465,893	Clembe		
128,941,840	786,829	25,847	128,127,373	Perce		
105,474,010	850,633	103,475	104,518,902	· _ p		
1,010,636,942	37,372,246	4,650,899	968,613,797	1993		
128,154,062	959,173	3,748,702	121,846,297			
63,563,298	2,783,605	144,568	60,524,825	February		
53,837,457	8,577,140	43,439	45,016,874	March		
74,884,106	2,297,057	43,019	72,344,020	April		
111,057,247	3,962,011	32,479	107,672,752	May		
178,114,674	3,334,965	111,928	174,967,281	Just ,		
154,446,510	2,420,586	100,509	151,910,515	Hè;		
56,045,876		73,265	51,916,216	Angel		
50,832,903	 	121,217	57,360,403	Squin		
56,183,081	1,386,625	287.272	54,900,184	Orași		
27,441,222	4,204,189	71,518	23,765,516	Kenn		
An erre 704	46,676,395 1,036,207		47 AT4 506	Demi		

"It's stamped right on my driver's license. I'm officially too old to

take you out necking in the car."

JUMBILE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

D by Henri Arroid and Miles Arginon

WHAT THEY CALLED

THE BIRTHOW

PREPARATIONS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as sug-

Jumbles: BEGOT ROBOT BALLAD LEVITY Answer: How the boxer became the champ — WITH A BIG BELT

THE BETTER HALF.

GLASSERGEN

SURUP

NAISE

WENTIG

MOSHNA

a record as the total at the end of 1993 amounted to JD 227.2 million, 316.9 per cent higher than the 1992 total of JD 54.5

The value of new shares issued by newly-established companies amounted to JD 89.7 million compared to JD 43.5 million in 1992. The value of new shares issued by old companies to increase capital, amounted to JD 137.5 million compared to JD 11 million in 1992.

Dr. Toukan referred to latest statistics available to the AFM on the performance of public shareholding companies and noted that in the first half of 1993 the net pre-tax profit of all the companies was 5.1 per cent less than the previous

shareholdiog compaoies re-corded a JD 113.3 million net pre-tax profit in the first six months of last year compared with ID 119.4 million during the same period of 1992. By sector, the banking and financial companies posted a net pre-tax profit of JD 59.8 million, a 13.1 per cent rise

He explained that public

over the January-June period The insurance and services sectors both registered a net pre-tax profit of JD 4.3 million in the first half of last year but the amounts represented a 15 per cent increase on the 1992 figure for the insurance sector and a rise of 9.3 per cent for

the services sector. The net pre-tax profit for the industrial sector totalled ID 44.8 million, but the amount reflected a sharp 23.8 per cent drop from the six-month profit

Dr. Toukan highlighted that in 1993 the AFM has authorised the establishment of two public shareholdiog broker-ages specialised as "market makers" and on condition that the capital of each shoold not be less than JD 10 million. The functions of these companies are to be limited to buying and selling financial papers for its own portfolio and to guarantee the coverage of issuances.

The AFM has issued the necessary iostructions that would regulate the functions of these companies in accordance with the AFM's internal regulatioos, Dr. Toukan said.

He added that the AFM had written to the concerned departments last year to issue regulations concerning "mutual funds" and that a speset up to study the subject and draw up guidelines for its implementation as soon as possible. In its drive to modernise the

cialised committee had been

work, the AFM board has approved in 1993 the regulations to enlist and suspend shares of public shareholding

companies.
"The AFM has also participated in regulating the process of subscribing in shares in order to curb the subscription nomenon has hampered the work at the AFM and the companies concerned," Dr. Toukan said.

'The AFM wrote to the concerned parties to find a solution to this problem and in-formed all banks not to accept any subscription without checking identity documents." Dr. Toukan said that the

AFM was keen to keep inves-

which were not in line with the tors informed about developcriteria. "Summing up, the number ments or statistics that might

of companies in the sample bas affect prices and was issuing various bulletins and increased to 60 which reflect the sectoral representation of announcements to that end. the companies whose shares Moreover, the AFM has reare listed for training," Dr. considered the sample of com-panies upon which it calculates Toukan said.

Dr. Toukan, in answering a question, revealed that foreign (non-Arab) institutions were given permission to buy shares worth about JD 40 million in 1993 but what was actually bought did not exceed JD 500,000 at the end of last year.

debts. A Awsat no

Saudi Arabia

of oil prices and allow on productal position gent of an oil price The

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Nager Litz

Empean Current Cour

London precious metals surge to fresh 5-month highs

LONDON (R) - Gold's first fixing of 1994 took it to a five-month high of \$395 an ounce Tuesday, its best since Aog. 5, as the Far East and Europe followed up on Mon-

day's bullish moves in New Dealers described the tone as positive, anticipating a fresh assault on \$400 as more players came into the market.

"Most of the action so far has been with the professionals. Clients are waiting for a major move before coming back in," one dealer said.

LONDON (AP) — Bank of

America agreed to pay 25 mil-lion pounds (\$37 million) to

settle claims from a pension

plan looted by the late pub-

hisher Robert Maxwell, it was

Trustees for the pension

plan of Maxwill's former news-

paper company, Mirror

Group, had been seeking 38

million pounds (\$56 million)

each from Bank of America

and Zurich-based Credit Suis-

Bank of America, based in

San Francisco, had acted as

custodian for stocks held by

the Mirror pension plans and

passed them along to Credit

Suisses as security for loans

made to Maxwell's private

After Maxwell was found

dead at sea in November 1991,

a variety of financial irregular-

ities including hundreds of mil-

lions in missing pension fund money, were discovered.

Under the deal announced

Tuesday, Bank of America

admitted no wroogdoing. The

trustees of the Mirror Group

pension plan said they would

businesses.

announced Tuesday.

Bank of America to pay

Credit Suisse.

ly legal-action."

The \$400 price may not be technically significant but it was billed as psychologically important for market confi-

"And it (the market) looks good enough to get there in the next couple of days," one dealer said, adding that elient participation was still muted especially in Germany where an interest-rate cut could be annouoced Thursday.

New York's futures markets were encouraged Monday when Tokyo and London were closed - by economic data

"We compliment Bank of

America on being one of the

first financial institutions to

accept a commercial and public

responsibility to contribute to

the restoration of the pension

funds," said Colin Cornwall,

independent chairman of the

pension plan trustees. "This is

a substantial contribution,

made without lengthy and cost-

based assistant general coun-

sel, Tom Brooks, called the

settlement "an appropriate

means of contributing to the

restoration of the pension

funds without the delay and

uncertainty to pensioners and

the bank of lengthy court pro-

ceedings, and of putting this

claim by the trustees behind

bank holds none of the pension

fund assets which are the sub-

ject of court proceedings, nor

did the bank gain any signifi-

cant benefit from acting as a

eustodian for the Mirror

Mr. Brooks added: "The

Bank of America's London-

suggesting the U.S. economy is recovering strongly. U.S. construction spending data for November was better than expected, and the National Association of Purchasing Mana-gers' index for November showed the third straight month at over 50 per cent.

the general price index

adopted at the beginning of

1993, by adding 19 new com-

panies meeting the specific

standards and criteria and

dropping nine companies

"The U.S. economic data is particularly helpful for the industrial metals and silver looks strong." a dealer said, adding that \$5.30 an ounce for silver was forecast after a midday quote of \$5.27.

Silver acted as the locomotive for the precious metals Monday when strong buying pushed the market higher and the positive feel in turn encouraged fresh interest in gold.

Rhona O'Connell, metals

Hoare Co., said: "Silver might also be reacting to the armed conflict in Mexico, the world's largest silver producer.' According to figures from the Washington-based World Silver Institute, Mexico produces about 19 per ceot of the

world's newly mined silver. Platinum also leapt forward spurred by improved industrial prospects but dealers said con-

sumers were not responding. "Most of the interest is speculative with buyers hoping to anticipate improved industrial demand later in the year," one London-based dealer said.

The metal was fixed at a five-month high of \$399.50 per ounce and extended its premium to gold to over \$4, compared to about the same level of discount in mid-December.

millions in Maxwell case analyst with stockbroker T. continue their elaim against

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JANUARY 5, 1994

HOROSCOPE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Do away with any wishful thinking where a close associate is concerned. Get into the specific details of whatever has been intriguing you and eliminate any aspects that you can't accept at

ARUES: (March 21 to April 19) Contact some powerful you know who can assist you to come in contact with a banking institution or financier who can rid you

Some new ideas or a change of attitude can rid of that problem of long standing. Be alert to needed data, especially in your

TAURUS: (April 20 10 May 20)

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Follow intuition how to improve relations with associates, as well as gamening information needed from experts, particularly in personal affairs.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 10 July 21) Now associates understand your ideas and are willing to cooperate with you in every way. See that you assist them with their plans, also.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are able to accomplish a very great deal today, so be very sure to cooperate with associates and make big headway in any of your projects.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This can be a particularly happy day for you, esxpecially

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81 Loch -

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THE Daily Crossword by Matthew Higgins

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

with wife or husband and the youngsters. Or, if single it is possible you will meet the right one today.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get abode in finest order now and also do everything in your power to increase harmony, at home, which is so vital to your happiness and wellbeing. SCORPIO: (October 23 to

November 21) Do whatever is necessary to get the backing of sociales. Have meetings, sell, study data, etc. Then relate tonight with good livends at your favourite recreations.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to Decemb , 21) Be sure to make workable big projects you have had in mind so that you increase income to the poin where you have real abundance. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take beauty and health treatments that keep you mentally and physically fit. Then plan social affairs that are truly inspiring, both today and

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get an early start at clearing up obligations before you. Be efficient, quick, Get small tasks out of the way methodically 100.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A fine day and night to be with those who are experienced and travelled and 10 gain much from their background for your

secondary and parallel markets

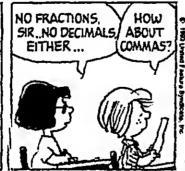
Volume of trading at the

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26.1	66,361	4.2	86,3; 12,96	21,1	44,354,256	1986
75.6	120,073	113.1	14111 11.27	102.7	96,124,842	1587
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Peanuts

By Glasbergen









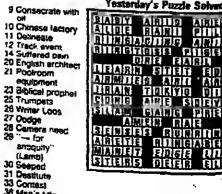
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



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36 Mao's title 37 Pouting grid 39 Cak or elm 40 Finished

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LONDON (R) - Fo'

the London Foreig

Saudi Arabia spending cut will help pay debt — paper

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's decision to reduce 1994 public spending by 20 per cent will allow it to use income from any rise in oil prices to cut its foreign debts, the Londonbased Asharq Al Awsat newspaper said Monday.

"The maximum spending limit gives Saudi Arabia an immediate answer to the problem of oil prices and allows it to boost its financial position in the event of an oil price rise,"

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Financial

Markets

Currency

Sterling Pound

Deutsche Mark

Swiss Franc

French Franc

Japanese Yen-

U.S. Dollar

Sterling Pound

Deutsche Mark

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U.S. Dollar

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Swiss Franc

French Franc

Dutch Guilder

Swedish Krona

Belgian Franc

Other Currencie

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Lebanese Lira"

Kuwaiti Dina

Qatari Riyal

Omani Riyai

UAE Dirham

Cypriot Pound

Carrency

European Currency Unit

European Curreny Unit

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

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Jordan Times

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Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

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the Saudi-owned daily said. The paper was commenting on Saudi Arabia's 1994 budget, unveiled Saturday.

The Saudi Press Agency, which carried details of the budget, said spending in 1994 would fall to 160 billion Saudi riyals (\$42.67 billion) from last year's budgeted 196.95 billion (\$52.52 billion).

Oil prices are currently near five-year lows, hit by an excess of oil supply and world reces-

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer, may keep public spending at the new lower level or only raise it moderately over the next few years, Asharq Al Awsat said.

Any extra income generated by possible rises in oil prices could then be used to pay off part of the kingdom's foreingn

"The finance ministry may decide to take this option, or a mixture of this and other ways of increasing state income such as privatising public corpora-tions or rescheduling in areas where spending is flexible, such as defence equipment."

Saudi Finance Minister Mohammad Abal Khail said in August the total foreign debt did not exceed a 52 per cent limit set by the then European Community for creditworthi-

Bankers in the kingdom said then that with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) putting Saudi GDP at \$119 billion, this would imply a debt of about \$61 billion.

More recent figures for Saudi GDP were not yet avail-

Asharq Al Awsat said 1994 spending cuts were made possible by strong growth in the private sector in recent years, exemplified by the expansion of the financial services indus-

"With every new budget we see a slight lesseniog of the ... government's (role) in moving the wheels of the economy because of private investments," Asharq Al Awsat The Arab News reported

Monday that Saudi Deputy Commerce Minister Abdul Rahman Al Zamil said King Fabd's declaration that the riyal would not be devalued has effectively ended specula-

tion against the riyal. The Jeddah-based newspap-

er quoled Sheikh Zamil as saying: "The statement of King Fahd is reassuring for the private sector and businessmen, since there were a lot of rumours spread by speculators and bankers throughout the market in order to encourage

their own interest. The forthright statement of King Fahd puts an end to such speculation.

speculative deals and promote

The monarch made his unusual defence of the riyal Saturday in unveiling the country's 1994 budget, following four months of turmoil in the market in which oeprators borrowed riyals to buy dollars in case of a devaluation.

Interbank riyal deposit rates risen as a consequence and had the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency had been forced to step in to support the rival.

Riyal rates fell Sunday after the statement and continued to drop Monday.

UAE eyes spending cuts due to low oil prices

ited Arab Emirates (UAE). in line with other Arab Gulf oil producers, said Tuesday it is considering spending cuts to offset low oil prices.

UAE minister of state for finance and industrial affairs Ahmad Bin Humaid Al Tayer told Reuters the UAE's 1994 budget would be in the same range as last year's budget of 17.6 dirbams (\$4.8 billion) in spending and 15.9 billion dirhams (\$4.33 billion) in re-

He said the 1994 budget. expected to be issued this month, will take into account low oil prices and try to cut spending.

"We bope this year's budget will be the same as last year. there is no increase in expenditure and we are trying also to

lance the budget," he said. "Of course this year because of the oil price decline compared to last year when we proposed our guidelines given to the ministry (we estimated) that

(per barrel of oil)." "But now as you know prices are not in favour of the revenue. So we are recalculating our proposed expendi-ture," be said.

the price would be around \$16

OPEC's basket of seven crudes slipped to well under \$13 a barrel at the end of last

Mr. Tayer said actual spending in 1993 was lower than expected.

"Last year there was a deficit around 1.7 billion (dirhams) but we managed during the year that the actual expenditure was less than that

but there is still a deficit," he

A UAE finance ministry circular in July cited low oil prices as the main reason it was asking ministries to curb spending estimates for the 1994

budget.
Like other Arab Gulf oil producers, much of the UAE's federal revenue comes from oil. Prices are near five-year lows from an excess of oil

supply and world recession. Saudi Arabia announced last week that its spending would fall by 20 per cent to 160 billion riyals (\$42.67 billion) from last year's budgeted 196.95 billion (\$52.52 billion).

Abu Dbabi, ricbest of the UAE's seven emirates and its biggest oil producer, is, believed to provide more than 80 per cent of funds for the feder-

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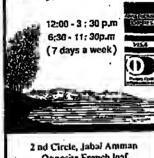
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

1.3152/62 U.S. \$1.00 costs

One sterling One ounce of gold

grafi — Jacob Joseph Larres de la compansión de la comp

1.9480/90 1.4880/90 36.31/35 5,9195/45 1702.3/3.8 113.39/49 8.3425/25 7.5335/35 6,7940/40 \$1.4795/05

\$394,75/395.25

Deutschemarks **Dutch** guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

Canadian dollar

Talk of U.S.-N. Korea deal premature - Seoul

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korea said Tuesday it was premature to believe North Korea and the United States would strike a deal soon on nuclear inspections.

North Korea watchers in Seoul agreed that optimistic sentiment from Washington about an agreement soon with the secretive Pyongyang government were overstated, and tbey said negotiators should be

cautious until the last minute. . Talks between Washington and. Pyongyang are going in the right direction, there has been progress. But the deal is not something that can be reached overnight," said a Foreign Ministry official.

"It is premature to be talking about a deal being reached

very soon. The United States said Monday a deal could be wrapped up this week on inspections of North Korea's nuclear sites. The United States has been

leading an effort to persuade North Korea to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection, to allay fears it is building atomic arms.

"Past experience shows that North Korea should not be trusted easily. One never knows what the North will do until they have done it," said one respected analyst.

"We know the North has not much choice but to accept a deal. But North Korea does not always act the way we think it will."

Months of approductive haggling between U.S. and North Korean officials failed to break the deadlock until last week, when there were signs a deal was in the offing. North Korean leader Kim

II-Sung said Saturday his country had agreed to a joint statement with Washington paving the way for the nuclear dispute to be "settled fairly."

He did not give details but in a later announcement North Korea's Foreign Ministry sug-

Death toll in

MEXICO CITY (Agencies) —

The official death toil after

three days of fighting between

government forces and Indian

insurgents in southeastern

Mexico has risen to at least 86,

s rebel forces appear to have

ben routed from most of the

According to the latest offi-

cial casualty count released here late Monday by the

National Defence Ministry, at

least 86 people have been kil-

led: 51 tebels and seven sol-

diers outside San Cristobal De

Las Casas, and in Ocosingo

San Cristobal and five near-

by towns were taken over in a

New Year's Day offensive

launched by the so-called

Zapatista National Liberation

Army to draw attention to the

impoverished sontheastern

Chianas state and alleged gov-

ernment repression of indige-

Chiapas state authorities re-

ported that the army bad

routed the Zapatistas from all

the locations they occupied.

except in Altamirano, which a

top official said was still in

nous people there.

towns they held.

gested international monitors would only be allowed into the country's seven declared nuclear sites for onc-time inspec-

warships to international wa-

ters off the Japanese on standby during the crisis in January

1987, said the Joongang Daily.

the event visitors who called on

the two Koreas were vying to

pick up a North Korean medic-al doctor, Kim Man-Chul, and

his family who had stowed

away to Japan on a fishing boat

and were about to be expelled

to take them in, there was a

dangerous moment when the

two sides came close to an

armed clash at sea," the for-

mer military general turned president said. "At that time, 1

The crisis was defused by the

United States, which stepped

in to persuade Tokyo to

change the expulsion plans and

fly the family to a third coun-

Taiwan accepted Dr. Kim

and his family at South Korea's

request and later allowed them

done if the crisis bad erupted

into an armed conflict, Mr.

Chun said; "I was prepared for

Mr. Chun's top aide, Min

Jung-Ki, said Mr. Chun often

took the opportunity of meet-

ings with visitors to stress the

importance of a strong defence

Mr. Chun, who turns 62 on

Jan. 18, led a rebellion within

the military hierarchy and rose

to power the following year.

He was president from August

Mr. Chun was succeeded by

bis military academy classmate and former general, Rob Tae-Woo. Mr. Roh was replaced by

Kim Young-Sam, a former

opposition politician, who

launched the first civilian gov-

ernment in 32 years in Febru-

to assist the armed forces in

their operations throughout

Also in his first public com-

ment on the insurrection, Pres-

ident Carlos Salinas De Gor-

tari Monday denounced the violence in Chiapas state and

"In Mexico we will always

seek the rule of law, peaceful

defence of human rights," Mr.

De Gortari said in a statement

issued in here. "Violent acts

delay a real solution to social

The armed peasants

apparently have links to

Guatemalan leftist rebels and

other Central American

groups, a senior Mexican offi-

The senior official made his

remarks in response to ques-

tions about statements made

earlier Monday by Guatema-

lan officials who said Guate-

malan rebels may be working

Central American elements

and armed groups, mainly

Guatemalans, but no links to

"There are many signs of

with the Zapatistas

called for dialogue.

needs.

1980 to February 1988.

posture against the North.

a clash."

Asked what he would have

to resettle in South Korea.

decided to risk a war.

'In the course of the efforts

by Tokyo to the open sea.

him on New Year.

It said Mr. Chun recounted

The near-crisis occurred as

This falls short of the regular and ad hoc visits required by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, of which North Korea is a signatory.

A senior official in Washington would not discuss details of the deal with North Korea, but indicated the Pyongyang announcement reflected its

North Korea threatened last March to withdraw from the treaty, increasing fears in the United States and South Korea that it may move aggressively ahead with a nuclear arsenal.

An official at the South Korean Defence Ministry said it was certain that cancelling Team Spirit, annual military exercises involving South Korean and U.S. troops, would be one of the conditions attached to any deal.

North Korea says Team Spirit is a dress rehearsal for nuclear invasion, while the South and the United States describe it as a defensive exer-

The cancellation of Team Spirit has for years been a basic requirement of the North before agreeing to better North-

News reports have speculated that if agreement on nuclear inspections was reached smoothly, U.S. and North Korean officials would meet again to discuss a "package deal" of economic incentives in return for broader inspection rights.

North and South Korea were on the verge of an armed clash at sea which could have led to all-out war in 1987, a major daily in Seoul said Tuesday quoting former President Chuo

Both Koreas dispatched

although local residents still

reported heavy fighting late

All access routes to the state

capital of Tuxtla Gutierez were

under army surveillance amid.

rumours that Zapatista rebels

were nearby, a Chiapas official

Local officials also reported

that the military had arrested

apparently implicated in the

kidnapping earlier Monday of

the former Chiapas Governor

of 86, military anthorities said

tht 27 Zapatistas were killed in

Ocosingo, while press reports

spoke of some 60 people in more than 30 bours of fighting.

that 21 local police officers and

seven civilians had been killed

since Jan. 1 in San Cristobal,

Albamirano, Chanal and Las

Margaritas, and that 30 people

were wounded, one of them a

Press reports indicated that

more than 100 peoeple had

perished in the uprising.
Chiapas Governor Elman

Chiapas state officials said

Besides the official death toll

Abasalon Castellanos.

Mexican uprising hits 86



dead in Australian bushfires

SYDNEY - a Firefighter was killed Tnesday and a second was seriously injured as they battled eastern Australia's worst bushfires in 15 years, police said. The casualties occurred when a burnt tree crashed noto a fire engine at Grafton on the Pacific Highway, a major trunk route linking Sydney and Brisbane, which has been cut by the fires. Traffic was being diverted early Tuesday. The fatality was the second in the fires which have already destroyed at least six

homes and are threatening thousands more. Up to 10 areas of New South Wales have been classified as being under a state of emergency, as about 70 separate fires, fuelled by searing heat and strong winds, blazed across the state late Monday and early Tuesday. Twn thousand firefighters are battling the flames. The photograph shows the bushfire closing in on the small town of Spencer, bordering the Duraq National Park north of Sydney (AFP photo)

Sarajevo shelled ahead of peace talks

SARAJEVO (R) - A huge explosion shook Sarajevo Tuesday as hillside gunners sbelled the besieged Bosnian capital hours before Croatian-Muslim peace talks began in

One person was killed and at least ten wounded in sbelling. which forced people to run for cover in the debris.

A police station in the city centre took a direct hit and a huge fireball blasted its roof off. filling the street with wisted metal. Local reporters

believed it was hit by a rocket. The bombardment started ust hours before Croatian and Bosnian ministers met in Vienna to try to stop fighting between Muslims and Croats in central Bosnia.

It was the first round of Bosnian peace negotiations of 1994. Talks including the third warring faction, the Serbs, are set for Geneva in two weeks

Sarajevo had already been bombarded Monday, when a total of 14 people died and a single shell wiped out an entire family of six, the United Na-

tions reported Tuesday. Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic and Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silaidzic were meeting in Vienna's imperial Hofburg Palace, begin-ning a crucial period for prospects of ending the Bosnia

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian

President Boris Yeltsin has in-

vited his Ukrainian counter-

part, Leonid Kravchuk, to

Moscow to take part in summit

talks with U.S. President Bill

Clinton, Interfax News Agency

said Tuesday quoting Foreign

Ministry sources.

International mediator Lord

Owen suggested that United Nations troops in Bosnia could be withdrawn in the spring if peace talks make no progress in the next two months.

The new round coincides with the beginning of Greece's six-month presidency of the European Union, giving rise to speculation that Athens, as a traditional ally of Serbia, will pull out the stops to broker a breakthrough agreement, "We have to solve this prob-

lem before the spring. Otherwise the belligerents will try new military operations, Greek European Affairs Minister Theodoros Pangalos was Tuesday quoted as saying.

Lord Owen told British radio the United Nations could not justify pulling out during the harsh Balkan winter as this would cause enormous suffering to ordinary civilians. But he said U.N. food was frequently channelled to fighters on all three sides.

"We are changing the balance of the war and in a way keeping it going but we can justify keeping it going as long as there is a real chance that the political and military leaders are taking the peace process seriously." he said.

"If they're really just using the peace process as a shelter behind which they continue the war, come the end of the winter I think people will have to reassess the role of the U.N.

In Brussels, the Defence Minsitry said the commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia, General Francis Briquemont. may leave his post early and return to Belgium.

Gen. Briquemont, an outspoken critic of political efforts to end the fighting in Bosnia. had been scheduled to leave in July but a ministry spokesman said the general had asked in December to return early.

In Sarajevo, the U.N. said the United States was about to double the number of planes dropping relief supplies over "The military airdrop capa-

bility over Bosnia will be expanded considerably in the near future," said Ray Wilkinson, spokesman for the UNited Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "Within the next few days

the number of aircraft will be increased (from eight) to 17. These will be mainly American, although the French and Germany are considering raising their contributions."

Of the eight aircraft already

flying nightly airdrop mission. six are American C-130s, France and Germany have cach contributed one aircraft

Airdrops of relief supplies over Bosnia started in March 1993 as United Nations relie efforts by land were stymicd in some Muslim enclaves threatened by Serb forces.

Yeltsin invites Kravchuk to join summit Clinton would not go to Kiev

"The idea of his (Kravchuk's) presence in Moscow is to confirm all engagements. without exception, of which is a part," the diplomat said, referring specifically to the 1991 START treaty and the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

Officials in Kiev confirmed the invitation had been extended hut declined to comment on whether it would be accepted or not.

Interfax. quoting a semorranking Russian diplomat, said it was at present "difficult" to say if there would be a trilateral sommit in Moscow, noting it would depend on Mr. Kravchuk's response to the invita-

TOKYO (R) - Prime Minis-

The Ukrainian president has been seeking a face-to-face meeting with Mr. Clinton for some months, but Ukraine's delay in ratifying START prompted the cancellation of two planned Kravehuk trips to Washington,

U.S. officials who travelled to Ricy to Secretary of State Warren Christopher last October made it clear that Mr. and Mr. Kravchuk would not be invited to Washington until Ukraine's position on its nuclear missiles was darified.

But a Ukrainian official Suggested Monday that Mr. Kravchuk could travel to Minsk, where Mr. Clinton is due to meet Belarus leader Stanislav Shushkevich on Jan. 15 following his summit talks in Mos-

Interfax news agency in Ukraine Monday also qunted an informed source as saying that Mr. Kravchuk could meet Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin in Moscow on Jan. 14 to sign an agreement on "hasic questions of nuclear disarmament."

Sinn Fein N. Ireland

DUBLIN (R) - The leader of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein has given a guarded welcome to an Anglo-Irish peace plan for Northern Ireland in a landmark speech that may revive its chances of success.

revives

peace

hopes

Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, told supporters that a Dec. 15 declaration by British Prime Minister John Major and Irish Premier Albert Reynolds had for the first time recognised the right of all Irish people to shape their future. The deadlock has not yet

been broken, but the key issue of national self-determination has at least been identified." he told activists in predominantly Catholic West Belfast. It was the first time Mr.

Adams had said anything positive about the declaration. which sets out principles to end 25 years of war by the 1rish Republican Army (1RA) against British rule of the pro-

Since the declaration was unveiled. Sinn Fein has been critical because it fails to acknowledge that Ireland should be united to include the North. which stayed under British rule when the island was partitioned 70 years ago.

Hardline statements by Sinn Fein over the weekend together with a surge of IRA violence and signs of a new campaign by Protestant ex-tremists raised fears that the peace package may be close to collapse. Mr. Adams' speech was

heavily qualified, but its tone contrasted sharply with the dismissive note both he and fellow leader Martin McGuinness have struck in recent days. The two men hve said it will

be weeks before Sinn Fein gives its formal response to the declaration and have called in vain for direct talks with London and Dublin, who have replied that there can be no discussions until the IRA ends

A spokesman for Mr. Major said Mr. Adams' comments would be examined. "We will study Mr. Adams' words very carefully but what the people of Northern Ireland need is a sign from the terrorists that there will be a permanent cessation of their violence."

Mr. Adams welcomed the fact that the declaration says the people of Ireland and Northern Ireland should have a say in the future of their island - national self-determination.

But he made clear that Republicans object to the way the declaration gives the 60-40 Protestant majority in Northem Ireland a veto over any moves to change their British

Most so-called lovalist politicians in Unionist parties which want to maintain 300-year-old links with Britain have grud-gingly welcomed the plan because it enshrines their right to block unification.

Mr. Adams warned that unless this was changed, violence between the IRA and security forces as well as attacks by Protestant gunmen on the Catholic minority would continue.

Japanese see less need to marry — paper

TOKYO (R) - An increasing number of Japanese believe women need not marry. according to a poll by the daily Mainichi Shimbun. About 28 per cent of respondents thought women should not have to marry if they were economically independent while 58 per cent said women should marry, the daily said Tuesday. In a 1987 government poll, 74 per cent of Japanese said marriage was necessary and 21 per cent said it was not. "This change in artitude gives a sense of foreboding, of the destruction of a society in which marriage is the norm, and takes (Japan) a step further toward a society of fewer children," the newspaper said. The Mainichi poll. takeo in December io cooperation with a life insurance company, covered 2,526 adults nationwide. A record low 1.21 million habies were born in Japan in 1992, down by about 14,000 from 1991. The average number of children born to a Japanese woman in her lifetime fell to a post-war low of 1.5 in 1992.

Pure as the driven snake

SEOUL (R) - South Korean men be warned — favoured items listed by their women include babies, snakes, frogs and cats. A survey of more than 1.000 women published Tuesday by a cosmetics com-pany showed that babies were considered the purest the son earth, followed by water and then women. From the animal kingdom, winners in the purity stakes were cars, followed by snakes and little green frogs. The most impure items, according to the poll carried by the Yonhap domestic oews agency, included men, short hair, mops, black coffee and

Customs men see through monkey business

COLOGNE (AFP) - Customs officers at Cologne-Bonn airport smelled a rat Monday when they spotted a holi-daymaker with a suspiciously over endowed upper body and found a baby monkey hidden under her blouse. The woman, an Italian resident in the western region of Hessen. was returning from a holiday in Brazil when her attempt to smuggle in the tiny creature cials said. She is expected to be find. The baby monkey, who is about the size of a human fist, was taken to a zoo io nearby Duisburg, they said. The exportation of live primates is outlawed under the Washington Convention for Protected Species.

Burt, Loni to face off at Jan. 26 court hearing

STUART, Fla. (R) — A judge set a hearing for later this month to determine if movie star Burt Reynolds will be ordered to pay temporary alimony to estranged wife Loni Anderson. Lawyers for the sparring couple appeared briefly before Martin County Circuit Court Judge Paul Kanarek to set the Jan. 26 date for a hearing. Both stars are expected to appear at the bearing later this month. Ander-son, the star of the NBC-TV show Nurses, claimed in recent court documents that she was nearly broke and needed temporary alimony to supplement the child support payments she already receives from Reynolds. She has also requested that Reynolds pay a variety of other experts' fees required during the couple's divorce proceeding. An attorny for Reynolds, who stars in the CBS show Evening Shade, has said that Anderson is employed and does not need the money. Although Anderson earned \$1.7 million during the couples' marriage, court documents showed that most of her income was spent on living expenses and child care for the couple's adopted son, Quin-

Rainier denies he is to remarry

MONACO (AFP) - Monaco's Prince Rainier categorically denied Tuesday British and Italian tabloid reports that he plans to marry Hjordis Niven, the widow of the late actor David Niven. Rainier's press office said the prince last saw Hjordis in 1983 when he attended her husband's funeral in Switzerland. "One wonders how such a rumour, without any basis, could have spread, Jacqueline Bern, the prince's chief spokesperson said.

rebel hands. any specific groups or orga-nisations," said the senior offi-Zetzer, in a public address. called for people "not to give They said rebel forces had been expelled from Ocosingo. in to panic and rumours," and

97 bodies found after Russian plane crash MOSCOW (R) - Russian rescuers working through the debris of a passenger plane which crashed Monday killing at least 120 people had pieced together 97 hodies for identification by Tuesday, a local official said. You cannot call some of

them bodies in the full sense of the word as we have had to put together pieces blown apart." Alexander Kamentsky, head of the Irkutsk Civil Defence Service, told Reuters by tele-He said most of the 16 fore-

igners, who were in the front of the Tupolev 154 plane, which took the main force of the impact, were mutilated beyond recognition.

Officials said Monday the plane crashed and burst into flames after an engine caught fire just 12 minutes after taking off from the Siberian city of lrkutsk en route for Moscow. The blazing plane broke up

crashing into farmhouses and powerlines. Mr. Kamentsky said the body of one farmer was found near the blazing craft.

ITAR-TASS news agency

said 100 catale had been killed.

300 metres (1,000 fcet) from

the village of Mamony after

Officials reported bodies strewn over a radius of three kilometres. All those aboard

sources, said Tuesday there had been four more passengers on the plane, who had not been included in the passenger

le unlisted passengers on overbooked planes to make extra money. The TASS information, if confirmed, would raise the death toll to 124 on board the plane.

to the destruction of the

national community and of the

On Monday, a senior

Cambodian officer told Reu-

ters the army was planning a

major dry-season attack

against the Khmer Rouge's

northern headquarters this

General Long Sopheap,

commander of the fourth miln-

ary region which includes the

strategie frontline provinces of

Siem Reap, Preah Vihear and

Kompong Thom, hoped to

capture the Khmer Rouge's

main base at Anlong Veng, he

month.

entire Cambodian kingdom."

Cambodian army warns of offensive

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cam-Sodia's armed forces Tuesday warned the Khmer Rouge of en imminent attack and urged guerrillas to defect to avoid what analysts said could be the biggest anti-rebel offensive in five years.

The ultimate aim of the dryseason offensive was the recapture of the Khmer Rouge's headquarters in western Pailin. a senior government official

"The headquarters of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces would like to appeal to all D.K. (Democratic Kampuchea or Khmer Rouge) officers and rank and file to urgently return to the national

community in order to avoid the upcoming confrontation."

state-run radio said. The appeal was part of a military bulletin included in the radio's morning news re-

It was preceded by a demand from Cambodia's two prime ministers. Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, for the guerrillas to join in national reconciliation.

More than 3,000 Khmer Rouge had defected to the government side since August bringing with them "thousands of assorted weapons and tonnes of ammunition", a radio

announcer said. "Please stop following the reealcitrant Khmer Rouge

- nine crew members and 111 passengers --- were killed. TASS, quoting unofficial

Crew members often smug-

ter Morihiro Hosokawa. attempting to calm jirters about his tenuous hold on power. said Tuesday he has no plans to call snap elections or resign if he fails a crucial leadership test

this month. Mr. Hosokawa political future could lie in tatters in four weeks' time if he fails to pass through parliament his pack-

bills, including anti-corruption laws and plans to revamp the electoral system. "I'm not thinking at all of dissolving pathament (for snap elections) or resigning along with my cabinet," Mr. Hosoleadership who always harbour war ambitions which will lead kawa said, attempting to quash

speculation about his uncertain "I will put all my effort into passing the reform bills," he said in a televised news confer-

age of long-promised political

Mr. Hosokawa, looking refaxed after a week's holiday, met reporters after calling on the Ise Shrine in western Japan, a popular New Year's destination for leaders seeking good fortune.

Mr. Hosokawa was swept to

power last August on promises

he would clean up politics in

the wake of numerous pay-off

scandals involving mostly

politicians of the long-

dominant Liberal Democratic

opposition. But the LDP, still furning

Party (LDP), now the main

over losing its 38-year grip on power in July general elections, delayed passage of the reform bills and forced the eight-group ruling coalition to extend the parbamentary session by 45 days antil the end of "If he fails on reform a

second time, Hosokawa will come under a lot of pressure from the media, the opposition and even his own coalition to resign and/or call elections, said columnist Reiko Tamura. "But I think he has a good

chance of succeeding because no-one wants more political and economic instability," she said. "Elections would hamper any improvement in the cco-

In parliament Tuesday. coalition party representatives agreed to re-open debate on political reform in the upper house the next day, with or without the LDP's participation. They said they hoped to win final approval of the bills, which have already cleared the

lower bouse, by mid-January. Criticism is growing over Mr. Hosokawa's foot-dragging on drafting effective measures to revive the stagnant eco-

Hosokawa attempts to calm fears about The latest poll Tuesday showed that while 66 per cent of the presidents of Japan's leading 100 firms supported Mr. Hosokawa, 84 per cent were unhappy with his performance on the economy.

At his news conference, Mr.

Hosokawa attempted to sides-

tep the issue of what his government would do to boost the economy, now in its worst downturn in two decades. Although he said late last year he wanted to cut income taxes to help bolster the economy, he has yet to unveil details such as the timing and

scale of tax cuts. "I want to think about it after receiving the recommendations of a government and ruling coalition liaison group on the economy in the middle of the month." he said.

Mr. Hosokawa has been forced to delay a decision in Order to win over the Socialists and other alliance partners who oppose a plan to balance the tax cuts with a hike in the consumption or sales tax, now at three per cent.

Meanwhile, five lawmakers who defected from Japan's main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) formed a small parliamentary group Tuesday to support, but not join, Mr. Hosokawas

his future coalition government. "I intend to cooperate with the Hosokawa government on

political reforms and economic measures." ex-Education Minister Takeo Nishioka told a news conference. He said, however, his fivemember group would not join

Mr. Hosokawa's coalition. The group adds more weight

to Mr. Hosokawa's base. The prime minister can now count on the support of 266 in the 511-seat lower house, the more decisive of the two chambers. while the LDP sank to 222 scats. Mr. Nishioka's group called

on LDP upper house members to join them. Mr. Nishioka and three

others quit the LDP last month when the party leadership ordered its members to boycott a vote to extend the parliamentary session until Jan. 29. Another influential member of parliament. Kunio

Hatoyama, joined Mr. Nishioka's group, called the "Kaikaku-no-kai," or the Reformist Group. Mr. Hatoyama quit the LDP last June and had remained an independent.

Last June, the corruption-ridden LDP lost about 55 lower house members who subsequently formed two new par-

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RACJ announces 1994

auto sports programme

out of the top ten and were-

replaced by Farrah. Tabaa and

Daoud in the top hree places

and Bashar Bustami 4th.

Ma'rouf Abn Symra 9th and

In 1994, I L officials have

announced that only one

speedtest would take place. It has been decided that the speedtest would be upon in-

vitation and would be a non-

championship event. In addi-tion, group 3 cars have been

barred from competing in the

international rally and will not

be awarded any championship

points when they compete in.

At least one top competitor,

Majdi Al Jailad, has formally

announced that he will retire

from the sport as a full time:

ten ranking during the past

years and had made it a point

to joio all national events in

addition to some regional ral-

lies. He dropped from 4th to

6th in 1993 and has apparently

decided to quit while he is

competitions, hut hope to still

official or volunteer whenever

I can," Jallad told the Jordan"

Times in a telephone inter-

Evidently fed up with the time, effort and fund auto

sports require. Jallad seemed

to blame the lack of sponsors

for making auto sports fans

think of quitting or not joining

"RACJ have obtained spon-

sors for their own purposes but

bave not done their sbare to:

encourage sponsors to back the

drivers," he said, adding:

"Some drivers do not have any

kind of sponsor and depend on

their own expertise and effort.

in car maintanence and rally

expenses. That is why Jorda-

nian drivers will always have

limited achievement especially

io the regional railies where

teams have powerful cars and

fully equipped maintanence

"I fail to see any incentives

for most drivers to join this

sport or continue to do so if

"I will retire from official

part of the sport as an

Jallad has maintained his top

competitor.

Saleh Al Babe 10th.

By Aleen Bannayan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Like all other

sports eothusiasts, auto sports

competitors are now enjoying

a short break before they com-

mence the 1994 calendar of

events recently issued by orga-

nisers -- the Royal Auto-

mobile Club of Jordao

Ten competitions are lined

up for the upcoming season which will include three

national railies, four railytours,

the popular Rumman Hill

Climb, a speed test and the

crowning event of the season

the Jordan International

Competitors, officials and

press representatives will cap the 1993 auto sports season

with the prize-giving ceremony at RACI Wednesday during

which His Royal Highness

Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein

will distribute awards to the

top competitors of the season.

three new champions who

dominated most events and

won the top three places in the

Jordan Drivers' Open Cham-

Amjad Farrah came in first

place with 230 points and was

crowned Jordan's new rally

champion. Tarek Tabaa came

in second with 156 points while

Ahmad Al Daoud finished

In 1992, Farrah had finished

11th, Tabaa 12th and Daoud

In the co-drivers open Faisal

Sa'doun came in first with 115

points followed by Mou'nes

Madani in second place with 70

points and Mahmoud Metwaili

in third place with 67 points.

changed places in the 1993

competition where only four of

the top teo retained their

spots: Mahmoud Komok 5th,

Majdi Al Jallad 6th, Sinan

Saudi 7th and Bishara Quz'or

Meanwhile, 1992 champion

Marwan Ahu Hamad dropped

to 14th after missing most of

the events and runner-up

Reimon Fleifel dropped out of

the top 30. In addition, Naser

Bilbeisi and Faisal Jabri were remarked.

Top names seem to have

third with 137 points.

1993 saw the emergence of

(RACJ).

pionship.

155th.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gascoigne to play despite cracked rib

ROME (R) - England midfielder Paul Gascoigne could play for his Italian club Lazio Sunday despite a cracked rib, team manager Maurizio Manzini said Tuesday. "This type of injury normally requires two weeks' rest but the club doctor has said Gascoigne might be able to play on if he is properly strapped up," said Manzini, "The rih is not broken, it is only cracked." The injury-jinxed Englisbman suffered a knock during Sunday's 1-1 draw with Sampdoria, coming off early in the second half after a sparkling display during the first 45 minutes. Lazio, whose recent run of form has seen them climb to fifth in the league, travel to mid-table Foggia Sunday. Gascoigne has only recently returned to the team after an achilles tendon injury and has played only seven of Lazio's 17 league matches this season. An Italian newspaper last week calculated that his sporadic appearances had cost the Italian club an average of around \$530 per minute in wages over the past 18 months. Lazio's Italian international striker Giuseppe Signori also has fresh injury problems.

Murphy ban quashed

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LONDON (R) — Declan Murphy had a two-day han for excessive use of the whip lifted by the Jockey Club Tuesday. Murphy incurred the suspension from stewards at Kempton Park after riding Bradhury Star to a close second behind Irish compatriot Adrian Maguire on Barton Bank in the King George VI Steeplechase on Dec. 27. Maguire, hanned for the same offence, accepted his punishment, but Murphy elected to appeal "for the good of racing." He claimed there were inconsistencies in the application of the new whip guidelines introduced last July. The Jockey Club Disciplinary Committee found in his favour, deciding that although Murphy had hit Bradbury Star seveo times without undue severity in the fioal 15 strides of the race, the gelding was clearly responding to the whip. Murphy had the full hacking of winning trainer David Nicholson and Jockeys' Association Secretary Michael Caul-

Asian Games short of funds

TOKYO (AP) - Japan's prolonged economic slump has cut into corporate contributions, leaving the 1994 Asian Games still about 2 billion yen (\$18 million) short of their target, the organising committee said Tuesday. Takayoshi Fukushima, the committee's secretary-general, said the committee will do its utmost to raise the money since costs for Asia's version of the Olympics can't be cut. He declined to elaborate on possible new measures to cope with the shortfall. "Because of the economic slowdown, many Japanese compaoies are cutting their advertising expenses and are reluctant to make cootributions to the Asian Games," Fukushima said. As of Dec. 31, he said, the committee had raised 5.5 billion yen (\$48.7 million) through corporate sponsorships. The 15-day games open on Oct. 2 in Hiroshima, western Japan, with 7,300 athletes and officials expected from 42 nations. The total cost is expected to be 28.9 billion yen (\$255.7 million). Of the total, the committee planned to raise 7.5 billion yen (\$66 million) through contracts with enterprises that would be designated as official sponsors or official suppliers. The remaining funds will be obtained from subsidies from local governments and from admission fees, Fukushima said.

Bruguera pulls out of Australian Open

ADELAIDE (R) - French Open tennis champion Sergi Bruguera bas polled out of this month's Australian Open because of injury, a tenois official said Tuesday. Spaniard Bruguera, the world's number four ranked player, joins former Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi as a notable absentee from the Melbourne Grand Slam event. Bruguera was scheduled to begin his open preparations at next week's Rio Challenge invitational tournament in Adelaide. "Sergi has been in cootact to say that be will not be coming to Australia. said Rio tournameot director Graeme Hannan, Hannan said Bruguera bad an unspecified injury and would the Adelaide tournament by French veteran Henri Leconte. Jim Courier, the defending Australiao Open champion, heads the field in Adelaide where his main challenger will be Sweden's Stefan Edberg, the world number five. The Australian Open is being staged at Melbourne's Flinders Park between Jan. 17 and 30.

Lartigue keeps lead in Parls-Dakar Rally

PARIS (AFP) — France's Pierre Lartigue kept ahead of his rivals in the Paris-Dakar Rally overall standings, finishing second behind compatriot Hubert Auriol in the ninth special stage. The 450km test between Chameau and Zoulon saw both Citroens excel-in the iotense heat of the Western Sahara Desert. Auriol finished six minutes ahead of Lartigue, putting him into fourth spot overall, ahead of Jean-Pierre Fontenay's Mistsuhishi and Bruno Musmarra. "The car was perfect," said Auriol, delighted with his victory.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF

ANOTHER LESSON TAPE FROM THE MASTER

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH

A Q 8 2

K J 10 7

K 6 3 # 6 5 EAST WEST #557 EAS1 476 410943 VA95 V842 V982 VQJ105 +QJ1043 +K7 SOUTH 4 K J 5 7 Q 6 3 A 7 4 4 A 9 8 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 5 Pass 1 \(\nabla\) Pass
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass Pass Pass Opening lead:?

Opening seau:
America's premier bridge teacher,
Bill Root, has just issued his fourth
lesson tape—this one on opening
leads (Bill Root's Lesson Tape IV, leads (Bill Root's Lesson Tape IV, two hours, \$39.95 postpaid. Available from Root Hahn Enterprises, P.O.B. 7205 Heights Sta., Concord, N.H. 03301) The material, as always, is thoughtful and germane, and the technical quality of the production continues to improve. This duction continues to improve. This hand is from the first section:

"Choosing the Right Card to Lead."
Consider only the West hand.
North-South have reached three no trump on a power auction and you have to select an opening lead.
You are unlikely to find partner with more than 6-7 points and there's no reason to suspect that East bolds a suit better than your clubs. Therefore, you cleared the first hurdle if you elected to lead a club, regardless of the fact that South opened the bidding in that suit.

South opened the bidding in that suit.

The textbooks will tell you that the card to lead from your holding is the top of the sequence, i.e., the queen. And that would be the right had had the suit not been bid by either of your opponents. Under the given circumstances, though, your best shot is to lead a low chub!

Now look at all four hands. Note that, with e low club lead, the contract must be defeated. If, instead, you choose to lead a club honor, an unblock of the king by East allows.

unblock of the king by East allows declarer to win with the ace and be guaranteed a second stopper in the suit. And if East does not jettison the king, declarer can sever communications by simply holding up for two rounds. Bither way, the contract will come home.

Lendl's American dream dashed by German pair at Hopman Cup

PERTH, Australia (R) — Ivan Lendl's debut for the United States proved an embarrassing flop Tuesday as his adopted country were swept out of the Hopman Cup team tournament by unseeded Germany.

The Czech-born Lendl, who became an American citizen in July 1992, and partner Mary Joe Fernandez were outplayed hy the more youthful German duo of Bernd Karbacher and Anke Huher who waltzed into the semifinals after convincing singles wins.

Lendl, now 33, was hammered 6-3 6-1 by the pencilthin Karhacher after Fernandez had been coolly taken apart 6-2 7-6 by Huber. Ironically, two of Lendl's

former compatriots did clinch a place in the last four when the top-seeded Czech Republic beat Switzerland 2-1 largely thanks to the in-form Petr

Lendl has been husy this

week deflecting enquiries about how long he intends to keep playing and his stuttering performance against Karbacher will do little to quell the

He made a string of errors in the first set, harely hit a third of his first serves in and squandered a 40-0 lead in the opening game of the second game of the second set which gave his 25-year-old opponent even more confidence.

Karbacher had already sensed his first career win over Lendl was a possibility and, timing the ball sweetly, clinched victory after 73 minutes. "It tells me quite a few

things about my game. I didn't play very well," admitted Lendl. "Whether it was lack of match play or not, we will

Karbacher conceded he had been freed from pressure by

"After I broke him for the first time, I thought I can beat him," he said. "I tried to dominate him ... you have to take nisks if you're playing a top

Huher, who has been practising all week in the regular company of Andrei Medvedev, was similarly unbothered by Fernandez, a rival with the three Grand Slam finals to her credit.

She took the decisive second set tie-break 7-4 when Fernandez dumped a hackhand in the net and said her form gave her confidence for the Australian

Germany, who won the tournament last year when Michael Stich and Steffi Graf formed the team, now meet fellow non-seeds Austria in Thursday's second semifinal.

The Czech combination of Korda and Jana Novotna face Australia in the other other

proposition for the home nation if Korda repeats the form which dazzled Swiss pair Jakoh Hlasek and Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere.

Korda, who beat world top two Pete Sampras and Michael Stich on successive days to win the Grand Slam Cup last month, destroyed Hlasek 6-0 6-2 and his contribution then tipped the scales in the decisive mixed doubles.

Novotna had earlier given ber partner plenty to do by losing her singles match against Maleva-Fragniere 6-4 7-5.

Last year's Wimhledon finalist has yet to win a singles match at the event in three attempts. In contrast, Maleeva-Fraggniere's success on her final visit to the Burswood Dome before retirement was her sixth in seven singles rubbers stretching back to

Maleeva wins, attacks conditions at Australian hardcourt

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) - Top seed Magdalena Maleeva scored a straight-sets second-round victory in the Australian Women's Hardcourt Tennis Championship Tuesday and then criticised the organisers for permitting play in searing hot conditions.

The 19-year-old Bulgarian played impressively in defeating American Audra Keller , 6-3 and then said it was too dangerons to compete in temperatures that soared to 55 degrees Celsius (131 Fabreobeit) on centre court at the Milton Tennis centre.

The heat proved too much for seventh-seeded Stephanic Rottier of the Netherlands, who withdrew from her match against Japan's Rika Hiraki suffering from heat exhaus-

"I don't know if we should play under these conditions." Maleeva said. "Is it normal? "Maybe it would be better if

we started very early in the morning, had a break during the day and then started up

ROME (R) — Italian champions AC Milan can extend

their lead in the title race over

their nearest challengers

Sampdoria and Juventus to

four points if they beat

The match at Udinese was

originally scheduled for Dec.

12 hut was postponed because

Milan played Sao Paulo of

Brazil in the World Cup final

Despite losing in Japan and

despite a surprise Italian Cup

defeat by Piacenza last month,

Milan have defied their critics

by cootinuing to show the way

Sunday's 1-0 win at Reg-

giana came in a game which saw Milan reduced to 10 men

for nearly an hour, following the first-half sending-off of

French striker Jean-Pierre

Marcel Desailly restored Gallic

honour by scoring the winning

Milan's other Frenchman

in Tokyo on that day.

in the league.

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Udinese Thursday.

AC Milan have chance

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p.m. N.B. A furnished flat of one bedroom is also avail-

to extend their lead

again in the late afternoon. "It's very hot out there and it's very difficult to play."

Austrian teenager Barbara Schett was forced to withdraw with heat exhaustion during the final set of her match against Belgian Sandra Wasserman Monday.

American Lindsay Davenport, the No. 2 seed, took the first eight games of her match against tiny French player Lea Ghirardi and won 6-0, 6-3. Davenport said she strug-

gled with her timing after a two-month layoff. "I still feel a little awkward but that's understandable con-

sidering it's my first mateb in a while," the 17-year-old said.

Daveoport said she felt that playing in the Brisbane heat was good preparation for the Australian Open, which starts Jan, 17 in Melbourne.

"It's cooler in Melbourne, so if yoo can play in this you can play in anything," she said. Australian Rachel McQuillao upset fifth seed Julie Halard of France 6-3, 6-2 in

goal - his first for the club -

and is certain to retain his

Amoog Milan's walking

wounded are Dutchman Marco

Van Basten, Croat Zvonimir

Boban and Italian Stefano Era-

nio. Demetrio Albertini and

Gigi Lentini who will all miss

With Papin suspended,

Milan coach Fabio Capello has

his options unusually limited.

will probably return to partner

Daniele Massaro in attack, with Desailly playing alongside Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic,

Roberto Donadoni and Ales-

sandro Orlando in midfield.

Sunday by Juventus, are cur-

reotly struggling in second-to-

last place with only 10 points.

They welcome hack defen-

der Alessandro Calori and

midfielder Stefano Desideri,

both suspended for the Juven-

(07:00-14:00) 696240/1

Udinese, beaten 3-0 at home

Romanian Florin Raducioiu

place against Udinese.

the match.

another second-round match while 15th-seeded Russian Elena Likhovtseva was beaten 6-4, 6-2 hy Sandrine Testud of France in a first-round contest.

Fourth-seeded Sahine Hack of Germany beat Italian Silvia Farina 6-3, 6-2 in a secondrouod match.

American Tracy Austin, who is playing only in the doubles, suffered a first-round Australians Catherine Barc-

lay and Kerry-Anne Guse beat Austin and Shannan McCarthy 6-I, 6-3.

In Adelaide, top-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria, winner of seven tournaments in 1993, beat American Ryan Sbelton 6-2, 6-2 Tuesday in the first ground of the \$313,750 Australian Hardcourt Tennis Championships,

Defending champion Nicklas Kulti of Sweden sent second-seeded Marc Rosset of Switzerland packing, beating the Olympic champion 7-6 (7-

Richard Fromberg of Au-

and Australian Opens twice cach in his glittering career, may be the third oldest player

competing in the Qatar Open.

tus, he said Tuesday he still

sees another two golden years

ahead before he starts to feel

"I'm not afraid of facing

age," said Edberg, who turns 28 in two weeks.
"I think I can probably have

another two good years. After

that I think it will be tough to

keep the consistency but you

can still play some good ten-nis," he said in an interview. "I have got the experience

so if I can stay healthy, I don't

think I will have any problems for a while," said Edberg, the day after he defeated South

Africa's Gary Muller to book a

second round place in the

Of the players taking part,

only fellow Swede, Anders Jar-

ryd, who is 32, and Haiti's

Ronald Agenor, 29, are older.

Jarryd meets Edberg in the

"I think it's a matter of

\$525,000 Qatar Open.

second round here.

his age.

But, despite his veteran sta-

stralia spoiled Swede Mat Wilander's 1994 dehut, bearing the former Australian. French and U.S. Open champion 6-3,

Two other seeded players fell Tuesday — David Rikl of the Czech Republic beat fifthseeded Amos Mansdorf 6-4. 6-4, while Sweden's Jan Apell defeated sixth-seeded Andrei Chesnokov of Russia 6-2, 7-5.

The tournament also lost two Australian players to injory - former Wimhledon champion Pat Cash pulled out of the doubles, while Jason Stoltenherg withdrew only hours before his match with countryman Jamie Morgan.

Cash withdrew after aggravating an old back injury during the first set of Monday's first-round's singles loss to Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov. The 1987 Wimbledon winner left he has a singles wild card.

for Melbourne winner left for treatment but said he boped to play in next week's New South Wales Open in Sydney, where Edberg has 2 more years

Lendl and Jimmy Connors,"

added Edberg. "You can push

Edberg suffered a recurrence of an old back injury as he

ousted South Africa's Gary

Muller in the first round of the

Third seed Edberg beat wild card entry Muller 6-1, 6-4, and

was joined in the second round

by world number two aod

second seed Michael Stich,

who trounced unseeded

Frenchman Stephane Simian

Edberg said the injury was originally sustained in the Au-

stralian Open last year and he

blamed the rebound ace sur-

face on which this tournament

"But the injury is not that

serious, although I was feeling

it a little in the second set

today. I'll just take it a day at a

time and see how it goes," he

yourself in your thirties."

Qatar Open Monday.

6-2, 6-1,

7-6.

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is being played.

DOHA (Agencies) — Swedish tennis star Stefan Edberg, who bas won Wimbledon, the U.S. keeping your determination because you can keep yourself fit for a long time just like Ivan

Calendar of events National Rally March 25 National Rally Nov. 11 Rallytour Dec. 16

Bustami, Issa Halabi, Ghaith they are now competing," be

Olympic medallist Lord Porritt dies

LONDON (R) — Lord Porritt, a former governor-general of New Zealand, distinguished surgeon and Olympic sprint medallist, has died at the age of 93. Artbur Porritt won the bronze medal for New Zealand in the 1924 Paris Olympics 100 metres final behind Briton Harold Abrahams and American Jackson Scholtz. The story of Abraham's victory and that of Scot Eric Liddel in the 400 metres were immortalised in the film Chariots of Fire. Porritt served a five-year term as governor-general of his native country and was surgeon to the . British royal family for 35 years. .

In the second round, Edberg **DUTY FREE CARS** takes on fellow Swede Anders. Renault 25, 1989 Jarryd, who put out Henrik Holm, also of Sweden, 6-4,

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Demy Moore ... in THE BUTCHER'S WIFE

NINJA DRAGONS

NEWS IN BRIEF

PLO representative in Riyadh dies

RIYADH (AP) — Subhi Abu Karesh, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) representative to Saudi Arabia. died Tuesday of a brain clot. He was 58. Officials at Riyadh's military hospital said he had been in hospital far four months for treatment of brain cancer and died there at dawn. Mr. Abu Karesh is survived by a wife, three sons and three daughters. In Tunis, FLO officials said Mr. Abu Karesh was born in Gaza, he juited Fatch, the PLO's mainstream guerrilla movement in 1963. He fied with his family to Egypt when Israel seized Gaza and the West Bank in the 1967 war.

Israel to build new Tel Aviv airport

TEL AVIV (AFP) - tsrae! aims to build a new Tel Aviv airport to serve as a crossivads to Asia and Africa in a peaceful Middle East before the turn of the century, transport officials said Tuesday. The transport ministry said "Ben Gurion-2000." to be built in the shape of the star of David taken from the Israeli flag, would quadruple air traffic through Tel Aviv to a capacity of 16 million passengers per year. The government is to approve the project to replace the current terminal by 1998. at a cost of \$850 million, within the next two weeks, it said.

Bhutto's brother refused parole

KARACHI (AFP) — Muriaza Bhutto, jailed brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, was refused permission Wednesday to visit his father's grave in northern Larkana, A special court rejected his plea for a parole. The judge decided his application had "no merit," court sources said. Murtaza had asked to be allowed to attend celebrations marking the 66th anniversary of the birth of his father Zuisikar Ali Bhutto, who was hanged by the military authorities in 1979. Murtaza has been in fail since early November on charges of terrorism and subversion which carry the death penalty.

Israelis 'proud' to be Jewish -- poll

TEL AVIV (AFP) -- Nine out of every 10 Israelis are "proud or happy" to be Jewish and almost 70 per cent believe they are God's "chosen people" according to a poll published Tuesday. The Israel Institute of Applied Social Research found in a poll that 94 per cent felt proud of their Jewishness and 76 per cent were opposed to their children marrying gentiles. Some 68 per cent of 2,399 people questioned believed the Jews were chosen while 31 per cent had doubts or did not believe it. However, 77 per cent said they believed in God, 73 per cent were convinced Moses received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai and 53 per cent believe the Messiah will come. More than nine out of 10 have their sons circumcised and 71 per cent refuse to eat food banned by Judaism, such as pork and seafood. Sixty-eight per cent believe Israel could not survive without the support of diaspora Jews, but more 50 per cent described themselves as "different" from Jews living abroad. The poll also found that ·59 per cent bad a negative or very negative "attitude" towards Arabs, over 41 per cent who responded positively.

India, UAE to discuss extradition treaty

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Experts from India and the United Arab Emirates will meet soon in Abu Dhabi to discuss a comprehensive extradition treaty, officials said here Tuesday. The proposed treaty is crucial for India, which has been seeking the deportation from the UAE of gangsters suspected of involvement in last year's Bombay bomb blasts. The suspects include Dawoud Ibrahim, who is accused of running an organised crime syndicate in Bombay from a safe haven in Dubai, Officials attending a three-day joint commission conference which began here Tuesday said technical experts will meet soon in Abu Dhabi to scrutinise draft extradition treaties and hammer out an agreement.

Japan envisions bridge link to Russia

TOKYO (AFP) - A Japanese transport firm has drawn up plans to build a spectacular pair of bridges that would link Japan with Russia - a mammoth project that would take 10 years to complete. Takashi Miyamoto, president of Jeuro Container Transport Inc., said a first bridge, 43 kilometres long, would link Japan's northern island of Hokkaido with dan-held Sakhalin Island. A second, seven-kilometre span would extend from Sakhalin to the Russian mainland, Mr. Miyamoto to Tokyo's mainichi newspaper in a report that appeared Toesday, Mr. Mivamoto said his Yokohama-based company has already held preliminary technical talks on the road-and-rail venture — budgeted at 7.5 billion yen (\$66 billion) - with Russia's railways ministry. Though the cost would be high, the benefits would be enormous and would give Japan a sure link to Russia's natural gas resources,

Hurd calls for quick return to self-rule talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) -British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd underlined Tuesday the urgency of resum-ing the stalled Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotianons on Palestinian autonomy and warned public confidence would be

"I think it's important to keep up the impetus." Mr. Hurd told a press conference after meetings with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and a delegation of Palestinian leaders.

"That's why I bope that dis-cussions on the points which are difficult will start again as soon as possible.

'Unless people here in Israel and the occupied territories can see there is actual progress they will lose trust in the wbole process," he warned.

Israel has refused to resume negodations in Egypt on how to implement the September 18 autonomy deal unless the Palestinians accept as the starting point a draft document drawn up last Wednesday. However, Mr. Hurd voiced

optimism on a successful im-

plementation of the self-rule

Those concerned have an instinct to move forward rather than back. Therefore I hope and believe that those concerned will find a way forward." Mr. Hurd said.

Britain was not playing an intermediary role, the foreign secretary said but he offered help for the peace process if

"Anything we can do to help it forward whether by technical assistance... or whether by encouraging those taking part m the negotiations we will gladly

Mr. Hurd, who arrived overnight from Beirut for a 48-hour trip, said: "I wouldn't see myself in any kind of role of intermediary. Maybe, from time to time, we can facilitate

understandings."
The secretary said he would announce new British assistance to the Palestinians during a visit to the Gaza Strip on Wednesday when he also meets President Ezer Weizman before heading for Amman.

Britain is also offering to train Palestinian police commanders, as well as help organise elections and set up a radio station.

Toll tops 100 from Venezuelan jail riot

MARACAIBO, Venezuela (Agencies) — Officials pulled the charred bodies of mutilated inmates from burned-out cellblocks Tuesday, and prisoners shouted the names of those slain in Venezuela's worst prison riot to relatives outside.

The confirmed death toll rose to 103 Tuesday, according to Colonel Aldo Boccone of the national guard unit that quelled Monday's riot in this western oil city. "It's the worst slaughter I've

ever seen," Mr. Boccone said, "It's barbaric."

At least 45 inmates were wounded in the melee, which an official said started when Indian prisoners at the Maracaibo national jail retaliated against non-Indians for several killings last week.

Frenzied fighting with guns and homemade knives ended after several hours when two cellblocks were set aftire and hundreds of national guardsmen stormed the prison, lo-cated about 700 kilometres

west of the capital, Caracas. Many corpses were so badly burned that only 54 had been identified by Tuesday moruing, according to Maracaibo criminal court Judge Salvador Cubillan. Some had been mutilated. All of the dead were believed to be inmates, officials said.

"Apparently, a group of

prisoners attacked others." pathologist Nelson Bonilla said. "They mutilated them, butchered them with knives lynched them, cut their heads off... some of the remains are only fragments,"
"We fear there are more

cadavers in the tunnels and water tanks," judge Cubillan told reporters. "We have iden-tified 54. It is difficult to identify the rest because they are disfigured. Others are simply charred pieces of meat."

Frantic civilians waited outside the packed morgue and prison on the outskirts of the city for news about whether their family members were among the dead.

In six months alone last year. 26 inmates were killed and another 72 were injured at the prison. Officials regularly seize knives and nicarms mon immates.

The justice minister, Fermin Marmol Leon, was scheduled to fly to Maracaibo from Caracas, to investigate.

Fighting first broke out Sunday while families were meeting with prisoners, and one of the inmates was shot to death.

Authorities said the prisoners were fighting amongst themselves for control inside the facility, and inmates themselves set the fires in three cellblocks, said patrol chief Eduardo Villalobos.



A young Palestinian girl posses wrecked cars used as barricades during a general strike Tuesday in the occupied Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

Doctors appeal for drugs as Afghan rivals fight on

KABUL (Agencies) - Doctors in the Afghan capital appealed for inedicine and blood Tuesday to treat 1,700 people wounded in four days of fighting among rival fac-

"We are short of medicine and blood. We don't even have enough food to feed the patients." said Zafai, a Health Ministry official. Like most Afghans, he uses only one

In Jamhourist hospital, one of Kabul's largest, dozens of children with shrapnel wounds lay bleeding in cotridors and on makeshift stretchers. Since New Year's Day,

fighters have attacked the city with rockets and long-range missiles in some of the heaviest fighting since they ousted the communist regime in 1992 and turned their guns on each

At least 80 people have been killed. Dr. Zafar said the toll was probably much higher because most people bury their dead immediately in line with Muslim tradition.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani's Jamiat-Islami party holds most strategic sites in Kabul, despite attacks by his

LONDON (Agencies) - The

Foreign Office Teesday gave

the Sudanese ambusador 14

days to leave Britain after

Sudan refused to change its

decision to expert the British

A Foreign Office spokesman

said the decision to expel Ali

Osman Yassin was an "inevitable consequence" of Sudan's

decision to expel British

Sudan ordered Mr. Streams

out of the country after

archbishop of Canterbury

George Carey refused to visit

the expetat. Kharlesare, as a

goest of the government of

President Office Bassan Al

The government had invisted

Archbishop Carey travel as its

guest in the mainly Muslim

northern Statan, The eleme has

said he cancelled the Khai-

toum leg of he trip because he

was not awated freedom of

NEW DELHI (AIP) - India

warned Tuesday that its plans

Ambassader Peter Streams.

enovy from Sudan.

main rivals, Prime Minister Gulhuddin Hekmatyar and Rashid Dostum, a former army general. Mr. Rabbani arrested 15 of

Gen. Dostum's soldiers Tuesday, including three generals, "When we were arrested

there was heavy shelling and a lot of firing," said Gen. Burat Ali as he was led away by government soldiers.

Earlier Tuesday, rockets pounded the capital at a peak rate of six per minute.

Witnesses said the worst fighting was in the south eastern Microryan district where Gen. Dostum's fighters were surrounded by the government

"The situation in the district is terrible - there is no water, no electricity, while the closure ol bakeries for the past four days has left an extreme shortage of bread," a resident there

"Many wounded lost their lives due to lack of medicines. bandages and plasma," the resident said, and casualties

could not be evacuated. Thousands of refugees, laden with belongings were fleeing the south of the city for safer havens in the quieter north and northwestern sub-

Britain expels Sudanese envoy

Foreign office Minister

Mark Lennux-Boyd sum-

moned the Sudanese charge

d'affaires. Abdul Rahman

Bakit, to the Fereign Office

Tuesday morning, said the

Mr. Lennox-Boyd told the

charge because of the totally

inadequate response to our

questions on Friday when we

last had the Sudanese charge in

... because of that we had no

alternative but to expel the

Sudanese ambascador to Lon-

at Sudan's embassy in London,

including the ambassador. Bri-

tain has seven diplomatic staff,

including Mr. Streams, in

The Foreign Office spottes-

Speaking in Israel on Tues-

man said Erstaun would con-

tinue to maintain its embassy

Khartoum.

in Khartoum.

There are 17 diplomatic staff

don," the spokesman said.

Foreign Office spokesman.

Hundreds were shelter-

ing in the basement of the main military hospital. The Iranian emhassy offered

to negotiate a peace settlement, and a mission of leaders of moderate factions in the coalition government was also trying to mediate an end to the bloody batties.

"We can accept a whole kind of peace settlement for the people of Afghanistan," Minister of National Security General Fahim said.

Huge columns of black smoke towered above Bala Hissar and the airport, where Mr. Rabbani's men were trying to mop up pockets of resist-ance in their battle for control of Gen. Dostum's main lifeline to the airport.

The front line along the main runway of the airport, held by Gen. Dostum's forces since the ex-communist general defected to the guerrillas, toppling the former communist government in April 1992, he

The fighting had intensified in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif that is Dostum's base, and Gen. Fahim said forces loyal to Mr. Rabbani bad taken the airport. One hospital alone reported 70 injured by Monday in Mazar-e-Sharif.

day, Foreign Secretary Doug-

las Hurd said that the expul-

sion of Sudan's ambassador

was "the end of the episode as

"I hope that is the end of

diplomatic exchanges on this."

he said. "It was a necessary

the appointment of a successor

to Mr. Yassin and there were

no plans to choose a replace-

ment for Mr. Streams, the

daying in England when Khar-

tourn announced its decision.

did "not serve the interests of

the two countries," a Sudanese

Foreign Ministry statement

southern Sugan last week at

the invitation of the Episcopal

Church of Sudan, as the fol-

lowers of the Anglican faith

there call themselves.

Archbishop Carey visited

Mr. Streams, who was holi-

Foreign Office said.

Britain would not agree to

response to an unjustified act.

far as we are concerned."

France to ban post-menopause

PARIS (R) — The French government will ask parliament to ban medical techniques being used to help women give birth past child-bearing age. Health Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said Monday. A bill to be put to parliament "will state very clearly that medically-assisted procession. medically-assisted procreation techniques, particularly in vit-ro insemination, will be reserved for women of childbearing age — that is, before meno-pause", be said. Mr. Douste-Blazy, a doctor, said helping women to bear children after menopause was dangerous both for the mother and the child. Controversy over the ethics of genetic engineering flared last month when a 59 year-old British woman gave birth to twins following artificial insemination at a Rome

Gary overtakes Washington as murder capital

GARY, Ind (R) - The mayor of this former steelmaking centre said Monday that a lethal combination of guns, drugs and unemployment had earned Gary the unenviable title of U.S. murder capital, "It's the result of too many guns, too many drugs and not enough jobs," Gary Mayor Thomas Barnes said at a news conference. Barnes also blamed a shortage of police for the lawlessness in this city of 120,000 just a few kilometres from Chicago. There were a record 110 murders committed in Gary last year, which computed to a nationwide high of 91 murders per 100,000 residents. That was slightly higher than the per capita bomicide rate in Washington, D.C., which has beld the title alongside Detroit in recent years. Riegal drug dealing and gunrunning bave moved into Gary, whose once-vibrant steel industry is rusting while promises of riverboat gaming are still in the future. Morticing. Paul Robinson said his business is too good, and be fus decided to do something about it. He makes appearances at local schools, bringing along a mock casket containing a mir-ror to allow schoolchildren to reflect on the potential victims of violence. "When you ask schoolkids how many knew a friend or relative who died a violent death, 90 per cent will

Barnes Collection draws record crowds

raise their hands," Robinson

Collection with masterpieces from Cezanne to Matisse which was on display for 100 days at the Musee D'Orsay here drew a record 1.5 million visitors, museum officials announced Monday. The previous blockbuster was the 1967 Tutankhamun Exhibition. Between Scpt. 8, 1993 and Jan. 2 when the exhibit closed an average 11,476 visitors were stunned by the 72 objects kept by the Barnes Foundation and shown for the first time outside Merion in the Philadelphia area. Washington and Tokyo will be the next stops for the treasures collected by Albert Barnes before he died in 1951 aged 79. A total 1,240,975 visi tors had seen the mummy, gold sarcophagus and other treasures of King Tutankhamun's tomb during the six-month run of the 1967 exhibit. Barnes created his foundation in 1922 but strictly limited access to the

1 out of 4 Japanese to be elderly by 2025

the world's top economic powers by the year 2025, according to a government report issued Tuesday. It said 25.8 per cent of the population would be aged 65 or over. On a comparative scale using United Nations statisties, Germany would rank second with 23 per cent, followed by the United States with 20 per cent and Britain 19 per cent, Japan already ranks top in terms of life expectancy, the report said, with an average life spen for women of 82 years and 76 years for men. Public concern is growing about how the series welfare system will cope.

Ultranationalists claim Cape Town pub attack

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) -Army (APLA! has claimed responsibility for an armed here in which four people died. the daily Citizen reported Tuesday.

the bardline Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC), which boasts the notorious slogan "One settier (white), one bullet." Police on Monday detained

MOSCOW (R) - Russian

ministers have begun moving

to the White liouse ex-parlia-

ment building, shattered by

tank shells in October, ahead

which could transform the

course of economic reform.

a government reshuffle

Three months to the day

after President Boris Yeltsin's

questioning about last week's raid but declined to say

in the watershed election. Patricia de Lille,a member of the PAC's national executive, said the movement was observing a moratorium on violence pending further dis-

two local PAC leaders for

cussions with the government

The Citizen said APLA commander Carl Zimbiri phoned the newspaper late Monday using a pre-arranged

tank shells on Oct. 4. But

round-the-clock effots by 5.000

Russian and Turkish workers

have restored the lower floors

of the imposing 1970s building

Mr. Chernomyrdin was later

meeting Mr. Yeltsin to discuss

the fate of his reformist

cabinet, following a stringing

rebuff to radical ministers in

elections on Dec. 12, Mr. Yelt-

sin promised there would be

some changes in the govern-

an industry-centred bureauc-

rat, seems set to stay, but the

newspaper Rossilskiye Vesti

forecast before the new year

holiday that arch-reformer

Yegor Gaidar and other radic-

Extreme nationalist Vladi-

als would be demoted.

Mr. Chernomyrdin himself.

ment by Jan. 7.

by the Moskva River.

code and said APLA's elite the People's Concern unit had launched the attack and was ready to strike gain.
The People's Concern. Mr.

General Banto Holomisa.

strike at any moment."
The API A leader said there

mir Zhirinovsky, who profited

from the reformist debacte.

said on Monday that Mr. Cher-

pomyrdin and five or six minis-

Communists and other con-

servatives, who will form a big

bloc in the new parliament,

have also called for the "shock

therapy" Mr. Gaidar launched

ers should go.

doned.

Kremlin.

of hostilities between APLA and the South African government until a United Nations peacekeeping lorce had beendeployed in the country. "Until then, we will double

would be no mutual cossation

our efforts politically and militarily," he said.

The PAC and the South

African government on Dec. 3 declared a moratorium on violence, but talks are still con-Onuing between APLA and the South African Defence Force on the suspension of armed action by APLA. The government said mean-

while that self-defence units aligned to the African National Congress (ANC) were out of control and virtually at war with one another in timbled townships east of Johannes-

to send peace proposals to arch-rival taki ian would depend on Islantabad agreeing to hold negotiations within a certain time-frame. Foreign Secretary Jyotindia

Nath Dixit, at his first statement after returning Monday from Islamabad, and little's plans to send proposals to improve bilateral ties would depend on Pakistan's stand on future talks. Mr. Divis reaction was to

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Mohammad Khan's statement that further talks between diplomats of the two nations would hinge un the "ground situation" in India's troubled Kishmir state. "I said that in four to six

weeks we would send proposals on Sir Creek, and on redeployment, but now we will have to see." Mr Digit said of Khan's statement brandcast by Pakistan's state relevision after the laded talks

"We will now watch the ground situation before sending the proposals," the Indian diplomat stressed.

The foreign secretaries of the two Asian rivals met in

Islamabad after a gap of 15 months for talks to cild glowing regional tensions stemming from their dispute on Kashinir, where Muslim militants are campaigning against Indian

The two days of bilateral negotiations un Kashmir ended Monday in a virtual deadlock as Pakistan India's call for a second mund of official-level talks within four months. "They do not want a time-

sult us on some issues," Mr. He said Pakistan, however,

Stachen glacier. Mr. Dixit said the two prop-

This, however, does not mean that we are resigned to the end of the bilteral process. It stops and starts but it will

The foreign secretary said Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto sent a special plane to ferry him to Karachi for a meeting - "which I interpreted (as meaning) that she wants to keep the momen-

"The meeting with Bhullo was an encouraging input to the bilateral orocess even though the results (of the talks with Khan) were not satisfaclory," the Indian foreign secretary added.

of the subcontinent by British colonial rulers. Military tensions between the two archrivals over Kashmir have sent worries across South Asia.

vince where more than 7,000 people have died since 1989 when the secessionist campaign gained momentum. Islamainisters the northem third of the divided state.

demes the allegation but extends moral and diplomatic

The internal commander of the Azanian People's Liberation attack on a South African pub-

Thursday's attack, in which gunmen sprayed patrons with automatic gunfire, was claimed at the weekend by a man purporting to be an APLA member and, separately, by a caller saying he represented the underground Azanian National Liberation Army, but neither claim was authenticated.

APLA is the armed wing of

whether they biamed APLA. PAC spokesman Anda Ntsodo told a news conference the artests were part of a government attempt to discredit the

movement ahead of the first all-race election next April 27. The Ntsodo said the PAC was committed to taking part

on a mutual cessation of hosti-

Zimbiri said. comprised APLA's best cadres and was also responsible for the July 25 massacre at St. James Church bere in which 11 people were killed when gunmen fired on

the congregation.

Mr. Zimbiri denied police as carried in newspapers that the attackers had fied to the Transkei, where they were being protected by the tribal hometand's military ruler,

"They are not in Transkei." Mr. Zimbiri said. "That's propaganda, they are in the country, and they are ready to

Russian ministers move house as reshuffle looms Mr. Yeltsin says the White House was originally designed for a government headquarters and not a parliament. But the symbolic removal of parliament from the scene of his

> two years ago to be aban-The new legislature will hold tion will have fewer powers than the last, will meet in a its inaugural joint session next Tuesday, probably in the split site.

Party leaders have prutested at Mr. Yeltsin's decision to hand the old patliament building over to the government. which is currently working out of cramped premises near the Kremlin which were once the headquarters of the Soviet greatest political embarrassment must be an additional comfort. The new parliament, which under Russia's new constitu-

occupy the former Comecon

building next to the White

The part-time Federation Council will gather in the Press House in central Mascow. while the full-time lower chamber, the State Duma, will

Pakistani condition irks India

frame. They just want to con-

had agreed to study Indian proposals to end a row on the sharing of waters of the Jhelum River in Kashmir's Sir Creek region and the dentilitarisation the 5,400-metre-high

osals were part of six confidence-huilding measures such as economic cooperation. disarmanent and reduction of border tempens ladia had been planting to send within "two. four and six weeks" tit Pakistum of the bilateral process on.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars on Kashmir since the partition

India holds the southern two-thirds of the frontier pro-

New Delhi accuses Pakistan uf arming and training the militants in Kashmir. Islamabad hacking to the guerrillas.

insemination

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AMMAN — John Organisa har to the Prior Officer har to the Prior Off

PARIS (AFP) — The Barnes

collection.

TOKYO (R) — Japan will have the oldest society of all according to the study.

troops battered the former legislature into surrender, the renovated office of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was blessed by a Russian Orthodox priest. Bishop Arsent of Istra petforced the ceremony in a fourth-floor office previously occuoied by the Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbula-

tov. who is in jail on charges of

The room was set on fire by

fomening disorder.